

Insider Tips



Walks & Strolls

Lucerne's best view

For a good view you walk up Dietschiberg. 30 Minutes from Hofkirche, our end of the tour. You can also take the bus up and get out at 'Konservatorium' and walk for ten minutes. The garden of the Schlössli Utenberg has gorgeous flowers and an astonishing view over the lake, the city and Mount Pilatus... Have a drink at the Rokoko cafe whilst you're up there.

<https://www.schloessli-utenberg.ch/rokoko-cafe>

Sonnenberg Stroll – the “sunny mountain”

For a good view of Lucerne you make your way up to Sonnenberg, which actually is no more than a hill. From the city center it's one hour, or you take the funicular from Kriens. The following walks are strongly recommended:

- the Rundweg Chrüzhöchi; 50 minutes; spectacular views over the city, the lake and the mountains.
- walking down to the city center through the forest (following the signs saying “Luzern”)

Take bus Nr. 1 direction 'Kriens Obernau', leaving from the trainstation side A (in front of the post office). Get out at the stop 'Kriens Busschleife' and make a small walk to the Sonnenbergbahn.

Funicular: <https://sonnenbergbahn.ch/home>

General: <https://sonnenberg.ch/erlebnis/der-sonnenberg/>

Lakeside Walk

Follow the North-Side of the lake along the Quais from the Hofchurch, where we normally end our tour, all the way to the Swiss Museum of Transport. It's a pedestrian zone alongside the lake with beautiful scenery on lake and alps with many picturesque spots to take pictures or portraits. After about 15 minutes you'll reach the Museum, from where you can take either the bus, train or even the boat back to Lucerne. The Museum also has public restaurants and cafés, as well as toilets that are accessible without the purchase of a ticket.

Rotsee the smaller lake

Rotsee is easily accessible and feels like you're far away from the city. Take bus Nr.1 direction of “Ebikon Fildern” and get off at “Luzern, Maihofmatte - Rotsee”. Cross the road and walk back towards the city until you reach “Restaurant Libelle” on your right. Turn right into the “Rotseestrasse” and follow the road until it leads into the path along the lake (“Uferweg Rotsee”). The route around the lake is around six and takes 1.5 hours to complete. From certain spots the views of Mount Pilatus are stunning.

Forest Bireggwald

The Bireggwald is a big forest close to the city center. Take Bus Nr. 7 direction "Horw, Bireggghof" and get off at "Rodtegg". Follow the road in the direction the bus continues and take the next road left. Following this road leads you directly to Bireggwald. If you can't find it, search for "Bireggwald" in google maps and it leads you to the forest.

Shopping & Markets

Swiss Chocolate

There are many places to get Swiss Chocolate in Lucerne. If you don't want to break the bank you find your way to supermarket Migros or Coop. They have a wide variety of chocolate to bring home.

Charlotte's important tip for Lindt Lindor lovers: save money by buying the chocolate bar version of Lindor instead of the separate packed ones.

Market

On Saturday and Tuesday until noon, the market can be found around the Reuss.

Charlotte's favorite bread: from the bread stand next to Jesuit Kirche, kleines Hausbrot. Enjoy!

[\(https://www.luzern.com/en/things-to-do/shopping-strolling/the-markets-in-lucerne/\)](https://www.luzern.com/en/things-to-do/shopping-strolling/the-markets-in-lucerne/)

Restaurants, Cafés & Food

Rathaus Brauerei

Beer lovers unite, here you find local beers and food. They always have a lighter and darker beer on tap, cheers!

[Home - Rathaus Brauerei Luzern](#)

Zunftrestaurant Pfistern

Traditional Swiss cuisine in the middle of Old Town in one of the city's oldest restaurants. Fondue or Raclette can be enjoyed there all year long - even though it's a bit of a crime to eat Fondue in the warmer seasons. Don't forget: reserve a spot on the balcony!

<https://www.restaurant-pfistern.ch/en/>

Pastarazzi

Behind Jesuit Kirche you find this Italian place. Sit down or order take away on a nice day, to make your way back to the weather and enjoy your food there like most locals do.

<https://www.pastarazzi.ch/>

Du Pont

Choose the classic cheese fondue and reserve a spot at the window. Like a drink? You ask for the drink with the cowbell!

[FONDUE HOUSE DU PONT \(fondue-dupont.ch\)](https://fondue-dupont.ch/)

Vegan

Places in Lucerne that are either completely vegan or have good vegan options.

Karl's Kraut

vegan restaurant that cooks with seasonal ingredients

Millefeuille

good vegetarian and vegan options; clearly labeled

Tibits

central location at the train station; lots of vegan options, some vegetarian; clearly labeled

Dean&David

vegan, vegetarian salads, bowls and curries available

Mairübe – vegan soul food

Open just for lunch, changing lunch menu

Bars, Pubs & Nightlife

Rathaus Brauerei - the city hall brewery

Attached to our city hall you will find some of the best locally produced beer. Get a freshly draft pint and some delicious food. It's a small and popular place, so it's normally quite full, but worth waiting for a few minutes if all the tables are full. The regular beer is my personal favorite, but they also have a seasonal one available.

<https://rathausbrauerei.ch/en/>

The Suite - Rooftop bar with a view

The rooftop bar "Suite" is the perfect location if you want to enjoy a nice drink in the evening and enjoy a spectacular view on Lucerne at the same time.

It's just across the street from the train station at the top of Hotel Monopol. Take the middle Entrance (Monopol, Starbucks) in between the Sushi Bar and McDonalds.

<https://suite-rooftop.ch/>

SommerCafé

In summer there is a cozy bar in front of the Richard Wagner museum by the lake. On sunny Fridays there's live Jazz and a very good atmosphere.

<https://www.sommercafe.ch/>

Museums, Arts & Culture

Verkehrshaus - The Swiss Museum of Transport

The most visited museum in Switzerland is a unique place for people of all ages, with or without children. Enjoy the interactive simulators, the historic collection or hop into the cockpit yourself and learn not only about transportation. Especially the flight simulators or the walkable space-transformer, a room that turns 360° while you are inside. The museum is open every day from 10-6 (summer) or 10-5 (winter). Go there two hours before closing-time to get a discounted ticket! Take the Bus (6, 8, 24) to the stop "Verkehrshaus/Lido" or follow the lake on foot all the way from "Luzernerhof" until you reach the museum.

<https://www.verkehrshaus.ch/en/home.html>

Theater Tour in the Historical Museum

Love history and speak German? Do a theater tour in the historical museum (included in the entry price of the museum). The tours are in german only, but as the format is a theater, you will also understand it with little german knowledge.

<https://historischesmuseum.lu.ch/theater/Theatertouren>

The Rosengart Collection

Art lover like Charlotte and lover of the work of Picasso and Paul Klee? This collection was gifted to the city of Lucerne by Angela Rosengart. Her father was an art collector with close ties to Picasso. Angela developed a fondness for Paul Klee, the collection grew. Other famous artists like Miro, Monet, Seurat, Léger, etc. are also represented.

<https://www.rosengart.ch/en/welcome>

Swimming

Cool down with a view

Enjoy swimming in Lake Lucerne, just find your way in the water via one of the many stairs. Or, go to Seebad for a bit more comfort, a stunning view from both sides and a restaurant at the spot.

[Seebad Luzern – Die einzigartige Badeanlage im Luzerner Seebecken](#)

Lake

Cruising on Lake Lucerne

On a nice and sunny day, the lake allows for a spectacular view on the nearby mountains. The picturesque scenery is best enjoyed from one of the countless ships. There are several options, generally divided into two categories: public line ships and the private boat cruises. The latter are specifically made for tourists and it's an easy and comfortable way to get a quick cruise on the lake without having to worry about any connections, as the line boats are more suited to get from A to B as opposed to a round trip. The "Sapphire" has one hour cruises daily and leaves every 75 minutes

For questions, ask at the Tourist Information Office at the train station or directly at the SGV information desk by the lake across from the train station.

<https://www.luzern.com/en/highlights/the-lake/boat-trips-on-lake-lucerne/>

Hiking

Mount Rigi away from the masses

You're up for a little bit of a hike but don't want to scale the whole mountain - bottom to peak? You'd like to get as good a view as everyone else, but are looking for some peace and quiet? This is just the hike for you. Take the boat from Lucerne to Vitznau. In Vitznau instead of taking the cogwheel train you pass it on the left and follow the signs to "Luftseilbahn Hinterbergen". It's about a ten minute walk from the pier. Once you get to the cable car station you take the cable car up to Hinterbergen. The cable car is owned by a family that uses it to get to and fro. Be sure to pack some pocket change because it is possible that the Cable Car only takes cash. A one way ticket will cost you 8 Swiss Francs. Once you've reached Hinterbergen you just follow the trail to Rigi Kaltbad. At first it is very steep for a while

but once you've reached a certain point you don't go any further up but just walk along the side of the mountain in the direction of Rigi Kaltbad. While doing so you'll be rewarded with great views over Lake Lucerne and the alps and if you're lucky you'll meet some curious cows. You'll reach Rigi Kaltbad within a maximum of three hours with breaks (from Hinterbergen). From there you can walk up to the top - to Rigi Kulm (~1h) - or take the cogwheel train back to Vitznau as a reward. You can walk down from Rigi Kaltbad or Rigi Kulm, if you plan on doing so make sure you leave early in the morning so you have enough time for the hike down. It's quite an easy hike that inexperienced hikers can do too. However, keep in mind to always wear appropriate shoes (hiking/trekking shoes), protect yourself from the sun (sun block, sunglasses) and bring enough water with you (at least 1 liter per person)! Also, check the weather forecast before setting out on any hike.

http://www.rigi-wanderungen.ch/vitznau_kaltbad1_map.php

Halfway up Mount Pilatus

From Alpnachstad, take the cog wheel train, but only to the middle station named "Ämsigen" (Make sure you tell the staff when you buy the tickets). From there, follow the yellow hiking trail signs all the way up to the top of Mt. Pilatus. Not only can you save a lot of money on the way up, but the view is even more rewarding. Bring appropriate footwear, as well as enough food and especially water. You could also hike from the very bottom, but I find the first half to be quite unspectacular. The second half however, is beautiful. Once you made it to the top, take the cable car down to "Fräkmüntegg" and from there also walk the rest all the way down to Kriens. All in all this will save you not only a ton of money, but it's also a fantastic day-trip to Lucerne's home mountain. Hiking is a great tradition in Switzerland, so make sure to greet other hikers with a "Grüezi".

<https://www.pilatus.ch/en/discover/hiking-on-the-pilatus/>

Trip to Rigi with a small hike at the end

Take the boat from Lucerne to Vitznau. From there, take the cog-wheel train up to Rigi-Kaltbad and exit the train. From there you start your hike on your left side when facing the mountain towards "Chänzeli". You will walk on a small track in a nice forest. At "Chänzeli" you will have a very nice view down. From there you start your climb on a small path towards Rigi-Staffelhöhe and from there to Rigi-Kulm, the top of mount Rigi. If you would like to do only a shorter hike (quite easy), you exit the train at Rigi-Staffelhöhe and walk from there to Rigi-Kulm. To return you can either take the cog wheel train down to Vitznau again, or the other side down to Goldau from where you take the train to Lucerne. From Rigi-Kaltbad you can also take the gondola down to Weggis and from there by boat back to Lucerne.

https://www.rigi-wanderungen.ch/kaltbad_rotstock_map.php

Treib - Seelisberg and hike to Bauen

Enjoy your boat ride from Lucerne to Treib. There you take the funicular railway up to Seelisberg. From Seelisberg you start your hike, first going a little up and afterward all the way down to Bauen. The hike takes approximately two hours and is rated easy on the hiking scale. On your way you will have a very nice view onto lake Lucerne as well as the mountains on the other side. You will walk in the shadow of a nice forest and will find several nice places to have a rest and a good view down on the lake on your way. You will pass Schloss Beroldingen, an ancient residence of a rich family from 1500. After two hours you will arrive in the small town Bauen, from where you can take the ship back to Lucerne. In Bauen you will find several nice restaurants as well where you can relax and spend the time until you take your ship. If you would like to have a longer walk, you can continue your way for 40 more minutes to Isleten, from where you can take your ship back to Lucerne. Important note: please check the timetable of the ships in advance, if you miss the last ship it will be very difficult to return.

Indoor Activities

Glasi Hergiswil

Visit the famous glass production site where most of the glass is handmade. Learn about the history of glass making art in the interesting factory museum and observe the glass blower artists during their work. If you wish you can produce your own glass sphere or send your marbles on a run in the unique marble race track entirely out of glass. In the factory shop you can buy everything you can imagine made out of glass. You can reach the Glasi Hergiswil easily by train. Take the train from Lucerne to Stans and get off at Hergiswil train station. The Glasi Hergiswil is quite close to the train station. Interesting for adults as well as for kids.

<http://www.glasi.ch/en/>

Gameorama

Gameorama has a lot to offer. It's not just a café, it's a board game and card game café (with over 600 games total) and a museum for games of all kinds. Grab some of your friends and head to the gameorama for an interesting afternoon of warm drinks and discovering new games.

<https://www.gameorama.ch/en>

Zivilschutzanlage Sonnenberg, one of the worlds biggest civilian bunkers

The civilian bunkers in and above the Sonnenberg tunnel are very impressive. The plan was not just to accommodate a few thousand people but there was a school, a hospital, a prison and much more as well. The civilian bunkers were opened in 1976 and were going to be used in case there was a nuclear war. The dates for the public tours can be found online. There's also the option to request a private tour.

<https://unterirdisch-ueberleben.ch/>