

Lockers and left luggage services are available in the Airport Center, next to the Service Center in **Car Park 2 (Level 1-Lockers)** are available 24 hours a day, and are payable with Swiss or euro coins.

Check-in #1 (level 1) or #3 (level -1) Is for Swiss

TI is in the Great Hall of the train station.

[Tickets](#) can be purchased from machines in customs halls 1 and 2 or from the SBB travel center located below the Airport Center in the Check-in 3 area.

[ZWW](#)

Airport-->Zurich-->Airport **3 Zone** ticket-13.60

Uetliberg 110-154-155 need **5-zone** ticket 21.60

Zurich Card 27CHF

Uetliberg from Train Station 1.5 hours Take the red-orange S10 excursion train that climbs from the main train station. From the Uetliberg station, it's a moderately steep, 10-minute climb up a paved pedestrian road to a hotel and a tall observation tower overlooking the city.

Old Town Walking Tour 15:00 from the Train Station 2 hours 25CHF (12.50 w/card)

[Zurich Street Food Festival](#) Hardturmstrasse Stadium (20 min from train station)

Seilbahn Rigiblick Funicular??

11:00 Arrive ZRH

12:00 at Train Station; Zurich Walk; Lunch

14:00 at Burkliplatz

Lake Cruise 1.5 hours departs every 30 min from 9:10; returns 90 minutes later

Lindt in Kilchberg

Return Burkliplatz

Walk along the promenade

xx:15 river cruise departs Burkliplatz every xx:15 & xx:45

Limmat Quai stop for Swiss Chuchi

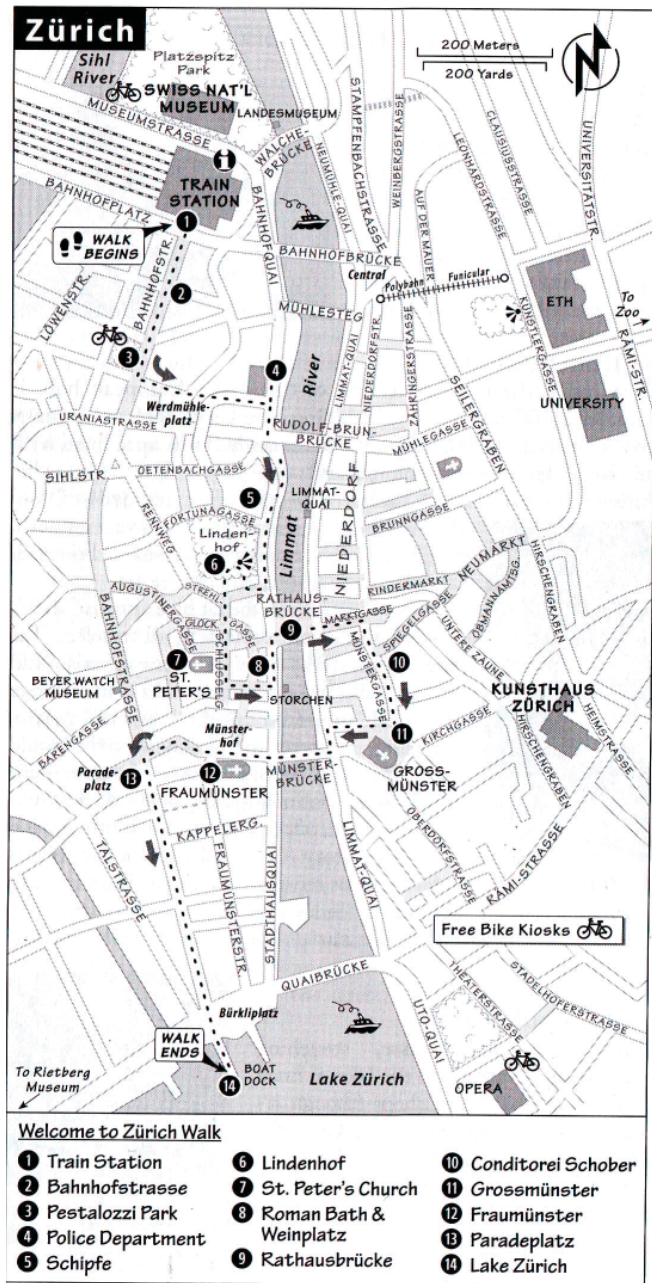
18:00 Dinner [Swiss Chuchi Restaurant](#)

20:00 Leave for Airport

20:30 Back at Airport

22:00 Board Flight

22:40 Depart



Zürich Walk

If you're blitzing Zürich from the train station, this self-guided walk is a great way to connect the city center's main sights. It crisscrosses the river en route to the boat dock for a lazy lake-cruise finale (or a quick tram ride back to the station). Allow about an hour.



1 Train Station

Step inside the main concourse of this major European hub. It handles 2,000 trains a day, including InterCity expresses to many major capitals. Built in 1870, its vast main hall was once lined with tracks. Today, it hosts a community hall—busy with concerts, exhibitions, and even “beach” volleyball—and a farmers market (Wed 10:00-20:00). The station sits above a modern, underground shopping mall (Mon-Fri until 21:00, Sat-Sun until 20:00).



Above you, find the fat blue angel, Zürich's “Guardian Angel,” protecting all travelers. The angel (sculpted by French-American artist Niki de St. Phalle) was placed here in 1997 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Swiss rail system. Crossing the street to the angel's right would bring you to the **Swiss National Museum** (Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum). It's the best museum in town, offering an essential introduction to Swiss history (described later, under “Sights

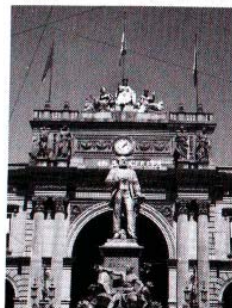
in Zürich”). Consider touring this museum before starting the walk.

• From the station hall, follow the six white lines that lead to Bahnhofplatz (also well-signed). The station fronts Zürich's main shopping boulevard, the...

2 Bahnhofstrasse

Mile-long Bahnhofstrasse, stretching from the train station to the lake, is lined with all the big-name shops (though it's become a bit “hamburgerized”). Cross the street (watch for silent trams), but before heading on down, look back at the station.

The facade of the station is a huge triumphal arch, built in 1871 to symbolize the triumph of industry. In the Indus-



Eating in Zurich

EAST OF THE LIMMAT RIVER

The Niederdorf is Zurich's dining district, and the traffic-free Niederdorfstrasse is its restaurant row. The countless eateries lining this main drag don't offer the best values, though the people watching is hard to beat. The first three listings here are on quieter side streets.

Wirtschaft Neumarkt, tucked away in the old town, is packed with in-the-know locals eating well under chestnut trees in their big “summer night dream garden.” The creative, international menu uses healthy organic ingredients. The interior is unremarkable—eat outdoors here, ideally in the upper section of the garden (29-45-SF main courses, lunch specials, Mon-Sat 11:30-14:00 & 18:00-24:00, Neumarkt 5, tel. 044-252-7939, www.wirtschaft-neumarkt.ch).

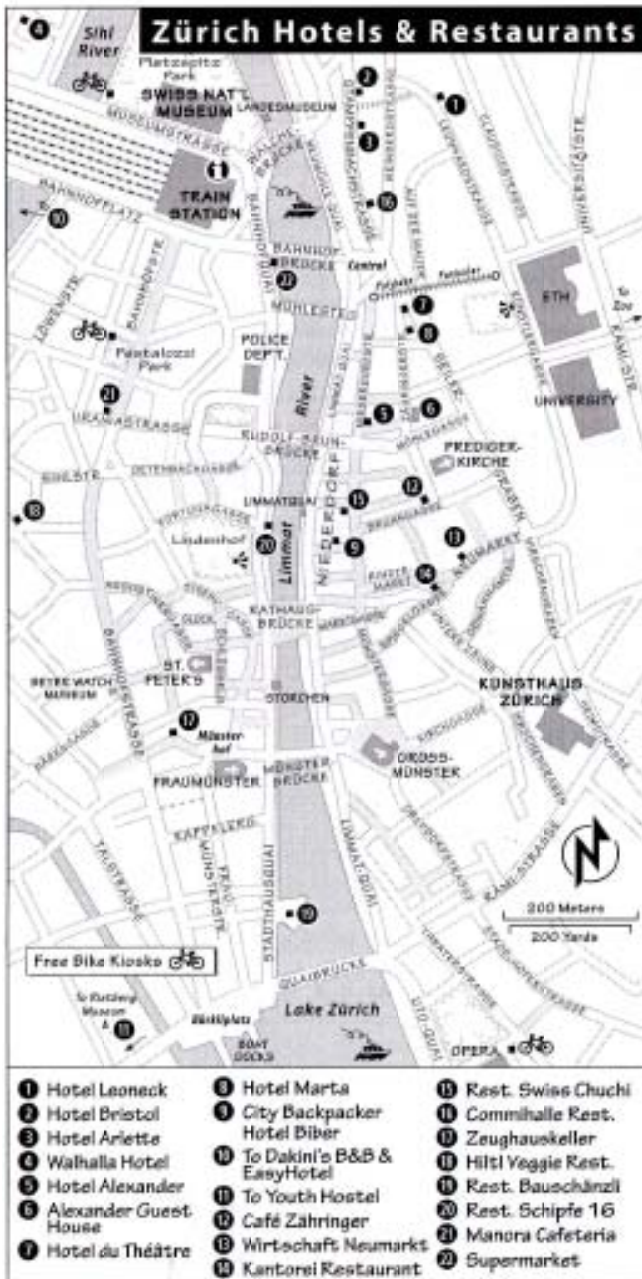
Restaurant Swiss Chuchi is a busy place along the main drag, popular with tourists and locals for their fun selection of traditional cheese and meat fondues. The 27-33-SF fondue is splittable if you order another dish or a salad (daily 11:30-24:00, indoor and outdoor seating, follow your nose to Rosengasse 10 on Hirschenplatz, tel. 044-266-9666, www.swiss-chuchi.ch).

WEST OF THE LIMMAT RIVER Off Bahnhofstrasse

Along the Limmat River

Restaurant Bauschänzli is both a leisurely beer garden and a fancy riverside restaurant, a block inland from the boat docks at Burkli platz. Filling a small island on the river, its fun-loving and popular self-serve restaurant offers Zurich's best beer-garden experience like a Munich *Biergarten* without the kraut—and it's reasonably priced (17-28-SF main courses, cheaper wurst plates). Help your self to the salad bar and the beer and wine from big casks (grab the glass or carafe of your choice). It's open from mid-April through mid-September in good weather only (if it's raining, call ahead or visit the website to confirm the garden is open), and again in fall for a raucous Oktoberfest. The small restaurant section, off to the side, is more expensive (35-46-SF main courses), and you'll want to reserve ahead for a waterside table. Live dance music (daily 15:00-17:00 & 19:00-22:30) has locals twirling on the floor (everything open daily 11:00-23:00, Stadthausquai 2, tel. 044-212-4919, www.bauschaenzli.ch).

Restaurant Schipfe 16, gorgeously and peacefully situated on the river with an old-town view, is part of a city-run organization providing work for hard-to-employ people. It was originally a soup kitchen, but the location was just too charming to stay that way, so it was turned into a restaurant open to everyone. Don't expect polished service; instead, feel good that you're contributing to a worthy cause and enjoying healthy and decent food at a great price. The best seats are right along the river (lunch only, 22-29-SF two course daily specials, Mon-Fri 9:00-16:00, closed Sat-Sun, Schipfe 16, tel. 044-211-2122).



trial Age, Zürich emerged as Switzerland's leading city. Sitting atop the arch and presiding over all this triumph is Helvetia, the personification of Switzerland (she's waving a Swiss flag). The Helvetii were the Celtic tribe that the Romans defeated in 58 b.c. to gain control of what is now Switzerland. Romans described them as "very good warriors with an affinity for bright and shiny metal." In the 1700s, French writers started to use the adjective *helvétique* to refer to Switzerland, and eventually the allegorical female figure of Helvetia emerged along the same lines as France's Marianne (the flag-waving heroine of Eugène Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*). Helvetia was adopted as a symbol of the Swiss confederation in 1848, when the diverse cantons that banded together to create Switzerland needed some symbol of unity to transcend all their linguistic and regional differences. The same word was put to use in the Latin name for the new federal state (Confoederatio Helvetica). Today, this neutral name is used when there's a need to avoid favoring any of the country's four languages—thus the "CH" on Swiss license plates, in web addresses, and in the abbreviation for the country's currency (CHF).

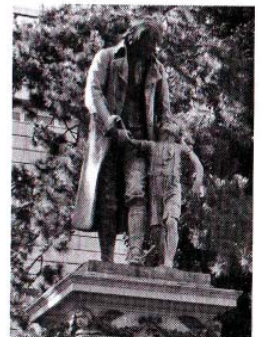
Helvetia is flanked by allegories of river travel (the goddess sitting on the boat) and rail travel (another goddess sitting on a train), reminding us that Zürich has long been a transportation hub. Zürich's river, the Limmat, starts from the lake and eventually flows into the Rhine and then (in Rotterdam) out to sea.

The statue in the foreground honors **Alfred Escher**, the Swiss politician who, in the mid-19th century, spearheaded the creation of the infrastructure—railways, universities, and banks—that allowed Switzerland to function efficiently within its mountains and connected this country with the rest of Europe. Without Escher, it's quite possible Switzerland would never have become such an economic powerhouse.

• Start strolling down *Bahnhofstrasse*. In two blocks (on the right), you'll see...

3 Pestalozzi Park

The only park along this pedestrian- and tram-only boulevard is dedicated to a famous Swiss educational reformer, Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827). He promoted the then-radical notions that good education should focus on the whole child (not just on specific skills) and should be available to everyone (not only the sons of rich families). Parks like this are rare in central Zürich because of sky-high property values—Swiss real estate is among the most expensive in the world.



In the park's far corner gurgles a green, Parisian-style **fountain**. Good luck getting a drink from here, unless you have a very small head. Seriously, though, more than 1,200 fun and fresh fountains are sprinkled around town, many easier to drink from and spouting water that's as good as bottled mineral water (the city regularly checks its quality). This is a blessing in a town where restaurants charge for a glass of tap water. Tourist brochures brag that Zürich is Europe's most "fountainous" city.

• *From the green fountain, head left a couple of blocks, passing through Werdmühleplatz and following white Stadtpolizei signs. Circle around to the riverside of the grand building facing the water, Zürich's...*

④ Police Department (Stadtpolizei)

Enter the big police building at Bahnhofquai 3 for a free peek at a fine example of Swiss Art Nouveau (called *Jugendstil* in German):

▲▲Swiss National Museum (Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum)

Cost and Hours: 10 SF, covered by Swiss Travel Pass and ZürichCARD, Tue-Sun 10:00-17:00, Thu until 19:00, closed Mon, audioguide-5 SF, mandatory bag check in free lockers, Museumstrasse 2, café in courtyard, tel. 044-218-6511, www.nationalmuseum.ch.

➡ **Self-Guided Tour:** Up on the first floor, after you've left your things in a locker, weave your way through the building by following the *Rundgang* signs. Everything is well-explained in English, either on wall labels or information sheets in each room.

The museum's main exhibits are organized thematically. The **historical section** kicks off with an exhibit on immigrants (*Zugewanderte*) that shows photos of people, famous in Swiss history, who were born abroad. The exhibit's implication that there's no such thing as a native Swiss is a controversial claim in a nation perennially concerned with what right-wing parties call *Überfremdung*—"over-foreignization" (see the wall of anti-immigration political posters, some from the present day).

From here, follow Swiss history through the Reformation and the humanist movement into the Enlightenment, then step into the

grand main hall, which recounts and celebrates Swiss unity (with a gigantic clock-like wheel holding a bit of every Swiss cliché, from chocolate to holey cheese). In the grand hall, press the buttons on the model of the Battle of Murten (see page 117). The parts describing the nation's 20th-century history are surprisingly interesting, with pictures documenting the waaaay late-in-the-game movement for women's suffrage (not fully achieved until 1990) and videos featuring interviews with those who lived through World War II (the exhibit openly admits that "neutral" Switzerland traded mostly with Axis powers, clamped down on the press, and didn't recognize Jews as refugees).

Next, an exhibit chronicling Switzerland's **economic development** addresses what you may have been wondering for a while—how'd they end up with so much money? (The answers include: banking, year-round tourism, precision manufacturing, and neutrality.)

You may need to ask for help finding the **weapons tower** (*Waffenturm*), with an impressive array of weapons, uniforms, and military equipment. On the way up you'll pass a dimly lit floor holding Switzerland's largest collection of costumes, traditional garments, and decorative textiles.

Back on the main *Rundgang* path, the model living rooms and sauna-scented wooden rooms continue down to the ground floor. There you'll find the final exhibit, the **Collections Gallery**, with a bevy of pre-Reformation church art (all the fancy stuff the Protestants gutted from churches so they could concentrate better). A highlight is the oldest panoramic painting of Zürich, still recognizable five centuries later.

Sights in Zürich

Cruises on Limmat River and Lake Zürich

You have two basic boat-ride options: 1) small, low-floating bus-boats that take commuters and joy-riding visitors up and down the river and to points nearby on the lake; and 2) big, romantic ships taking tourists on longer rides around Lake Zürich. All boats converge at Bürkliplatz (lake end of Bahnhofstrasse) and are run by the same company (ZSG, tel. 044-487-1333, www.zsg.ch). You'll ride free with a Swiss Travel Pass or Eurail pass (but a cruise costs a flexi-day, which is no problem if you're already using that day for a train trip to or from Zürich). None of the boats comes with commentary.

The low-to-the-water **riverboat-buses** (designed to squeeze under the bridges) start by the train station and Swiss National Museum, head down the river to Bürkliplatz, and then make a quick loop around the Zürich end of the lake before returning to their starting point in about an hour. They can be handy for connecting the lake and the museum (use regular 4.30 SF public-transit ticket for any ride, short or long, can buy ticket on boat, also covered by 24-hour transit pass and ZürichCARD; April-mid-Oct daily 2/hour, first boat generally at 13:00 Mon-Fri but at 10:00 Sat-Sun and daily July-Aug; last boat generally at 18:00 but May-Sept at 21:00, boats depart from pier 6 at Bürkliplatz).

The big, touristy, **lake-only boats** start at Bürkliplatz and go farther down the lake. The basic 1.5-hour "short round trip" goes as far as Erlenbach (8.60 SF, free with ZürichCARD; April-Oct daily 2/hour 9:10-19:10, May-Sept until 19:40; Nov-March daily at 12:40 and 14:10 plus Sat-Sun at 9:40, 11:10, 15:40, and 17:10). They also offer longer trips and jazz and dinner cruises, and more.

Uetliberg

If you want to see Zürich from above, take the little red-orange S10 excursion train that climbs from the main train station to this little mountain peak, high above the city and lake (17.20 SF four-zone *Tageskarte* covers your round-trip and gives you 24 hours of free transport around town, also covered by ZürichCARD; 2-3/hour, runs 6:30-24:00, 20 minutes, www.zvv.ch). From the Uetliberg station, it's a moderately steep, 10-minute climb up a paved pedestrian road to a hotel and a tall observation tower overlooking the city. The view is particularly striking at sunset. Sunny summer weekends bring hordes of families with strollers. You can do the whole trip in about 1.5 hours.

an amazing wall and ceiling painting by Swiss artist Augusto Giacometti covering the arched vaults of the building's entry hall. Awash in vibrant orange and red, with flowery motifs, the hall was painted in the mid-1920s and reflects the relief and joy the artist felt when World War I ended.

(Augusto's nephew, Alberto, is the more famous Giacometti, well-known for his tall, skinny statues.)

Cost and Hours: Free, daily 9:00-11:00 & 14:00-16:00, closed occasionally due to special events. You may be asked to show ID. No photos are allowed.

• *From the door of the police building, head to the right, upstream along the river. Without crossing the river, cross Uraniastrasse just where it becomes Rudolf-Brun-Brücke (glance to your left to see a piece of the old city ramparts). Take the stairs down to the boardwalk below the Schweitzer Heimatwerk folk-crafts shop, and walk along the street called...*



5 Schipfe

Back when the city's trade depended on boat traffic, this small riverside street was Zürich's harbor. Today it retains its old river-merchant ambience. You'll pass a fun waterfront eatery (the recommended Restaurant Schipfe 16) and an arcade.

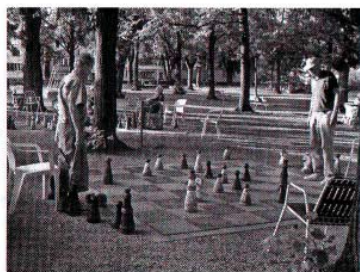
• *Twenty yards before the ugliest bridge in Switzerland, head up the stairs for two blocks, and then climb to the right up Pfalzgasse. You'll enjoy a great view from another park...*

6 Lindenhof

Important forts and strategic buildings stood on this square—perched atop a mound of glacial debris—from Roman times through the ninth-century Carolingian era. The statue commemorates the local women who cleverly defended the town in 1292. Their men were engaged in another battle when the Habsburgs encircled the city. The women put on armor and made like a big, rowdy army, tricking the Habsburgs into thinking the whole city was prepared to attack.

In the early 13th century, Zürich became a free city of the Holy Roman Empire, meaning it was relatively autonomous and self-ruling. The townspeople destroyed the fort here and established a law forbidding any new construction. The citizens realized that whoever lived on this hill would control the city—and they didn't want any more such rulers. Today, this is a people's square, where locals relax under linden trees (for which the square is named) and enjoy the commanding city view.

Look out and survey Zürich. The **university** (behind the green spire) is the largest in Switzerland, with 25,000 students. Left of that is Zürich's renowned **technical college**, the ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule—the Federal Institute of Technology), with 15,000 students. The ETH has graduated 25 Nobel Prize winners, including Albert Einstein and Wilhelm Röntgen (who discovered X-rays). The ETH terrace offers a great city viewpoint (which you can visit later by riding the little Polybahn funicular). Lining the opposite side of the river, the **Niederdorf** is a lively district of restaurants, cafés, and bars. On a clear day, you can see the Alps behind the twin domes of the Grossmünster.



behind the twin domes of the Grossmünster.

• *Take the stairs at the back of the park, just left of the chess players, down to Strehlgasse, and go left on Glockengasse, around the golden bell. Continue down tiny Robert-Walser-Gasse toward St. Peterhofstatt. You'll pass a characteristic eatery, Reb-*

laube Gaststube, made famous by visits from Goethe in 1779. He'd meet here for long, wine-fueled discussions with the minister of...

7 St. Peter's Church (St. Peterskirche)

Founded in the seventh century, this church—Zürich's oldest—has one of Europe's largest clock faces (28 feet in diameter). The town watchman used to live above the clock. If he spotted a fire, he would ring the alarm and hang a flag out of the window facing the blaze. This system seems to have worked—Zürich never suffered a devastating fire. In the 18th century, this church's preacher, Johann Kaspar Lavater (1741-1801), was so well loved that people would reserve their seats for Sunday Mass.



• *Continue past the church on Schlüsselgasse and take the first left, down the narrow Thermengasse ("Bath Lane"). Look under your feet through the grid at the lit-up excavations of a Roman bath, discovered by accident in 1984. You're standing over studs that elevated the floor, which was heated from below.*

The lane empties out on...

8 Weinplatz

This pleasant spot was a wine market in centuries past (notice the grape picker on the fine little fountain). A wall mural inside the

Across the square is Credit Suisse, with a luxurious ground floor full of fancy shops worth a look. If you like, detour a block back up Bahnhofstrasse to #31 and visit the fine little **Beyer Clock and Watch Museum**, in the basement of the elegant Beyer watch shop (8 SF, ZürichCARD valid but not Swiss Travel Pass, Mon-Fri 14:00-18:00, closed Sat-Sun, tel. 043-344-6363, www.beyer-ch.com).

• *Turning left, follow Bahnhofstrasse to the boats and riverside terrace at Bürkliplatz. We'll finish this walk at...*

10 Lake Zürich (Zürichsee)

Lake Zürich is 17 miles long, 2.5 miles wide, and—because it's relatively shallow—warm enough for swimming in the summer. From here, you can enjoy the lakeside promenade (a fine strolling path 3 miles in either direction; left is sunnier and more interesting) or a short cruise. To go back to the station, catch tram #11 (from the inland side, across the street) or the Limmat riverboat. Both cruise and riverboat options



	9.10	10.10	11.10	stündlich hourly	18.10	19.10
Zürich Bürkliplatz	9.10	10.10	11.10		18.10	19.10
Zürich Wollishofen	9.24	10.24	11.24		18.24	19.24
Kilchberg ZH	9.35	10.35	11.35		18.35	19.35
Rüschlikon	9.41	10.41	11.41		18.41	19.41
Thalwil	9.50	10.50	11.50		18.50	19.50
Erlenbach ZH	9.57	10.57	11.57		18.57	19.57
Küsnacht ZH Heslibach	10.00	11.00	12.00		19.00	20.00
Küsnacht ZH	10.07	11.07	12.07		19.07	20.07
Zollikon	10.15	11.15	12.15		19.15	20.15
Zürichhorn	10.22	11.22	12.22		19.22	20.22
Zürich Bürkliplatz ◯	10.35	11.35	12.35		19.35	20.35

Lindt Shop in Kilchberg

	9.40	10.40	11.40	12.40	stündlich hourly	18.40	19.40
Zürich Bürkliplatz	9.40	10.40	11.40	12.40		18.40	19.40
Zürichhorn	9.54	10.54	11.54	12.54		18.54	19.54
Zollikon	10.01	11.01	12.01	13.01		19.01	20.01
Küsnacht ZH	10.10	11.10	12.10	13.10		19.10	20.10
Küsnacht ZH Heslibach	10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16		19.16	20.16
Erlenbach ZH	10.20	11.20	12.20	13.20		19.20	20.20
Thalwil	10.30	11.30	12.30	13.30		19.30	20.30
Rüschlikon	10.37	11.37	12.37	13.37		19.37	20.37
Kilchberg ZH	10.43	11.43	12.43	13.43		19.43	20.43
Zürich Wollishofen	10.53	11.53	12.53	13.53		19.53	20.53
Zürich Bürkliplatz ◯	11.05	12.05	13.05	14.05		20.05	21.05

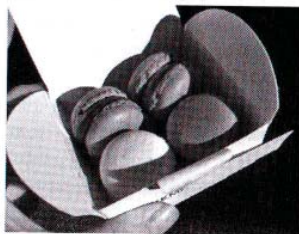
mandments (top), looks sternly down on lawbreaking warriors on horseback wreaking havoc. At the bottom, an angel (in red) embraces the prophet Isaiah (very bottom) and inspires him to foretell the coming of the messiah (in red, above the angel).

Everyone comes away with a different interpretation of this complex work, which combines images from throughout the Bible. Some feel that the tall, skinny windows seem to emphasize the vertical connection between heaven above and earth below, both bathed in the same colored light. Some think Chagall used colors symbolically: Blue and green represent the earth; red and yellow, heavenly radiance. But all recognize that the jumble of images—evoking the complexity of God’s universe—reaches its Point Omega in the central window, celebrating the idea of salvation through Christ’s Crucifixion.

• From the church, veer left into the square (away from the river), and head toward the blue building (Restaurant Zunfthaus zur Waag). Follow the small lane to its left, passing the recommended Zeughauskeller restaurant as you round the corner into busy...

⑩ Paradeplatz

Survey the scene: The train station is a 10-minute walk to your right up Bahnhofstrasse, and the lake is a few minutes to your left, down the classiest stretch of Bahnhofstrasse. On the square is Sprüngli, Zürich’s top café for the past century. Its “Luxemburgerli” macarons—little cream-filled, one-inch macaron-meringue hamburgers—are a local favorite (you can buy just a couple; if you buy 100 grams, you’ll get a selection of 12). Sprüngli also sells elegant finger-sandwich lunches, either in its café (upstairs/outside) or to go (perfect for a lakeside snack).



Limmat-Schiffahrt / River Limmat cruises

Montag bis Freitag / Monday to Friday z

Limmat Quai stop for Swiss Chuchi Restaurant

Gültig 3.–30. April / 1.–19. Oktober Valid 3–30 April / 1–19 October		May, June, September	
Landesmuseum	13.05	13.35	13.05 13.35
Limmatquai	13.11	13.41	13.11 13.41
Storchen	13.14	13.44	13.14 13.44
Bürkliplatz	13.19	13.49	13.19 13.49
Enge		13.54	13.54
Zürichhorn	13.05 13.31	14.05	13.05 13.31 14.05
Enge	13.39		13.39
Bürkliplatz	13.15 13.45	14.15	13.15 13.45 14.15
Limmatquai	13.20 13.50	14.20	13.20 13.50 14.20
Storchen	13.23 13.53	14.23	13.23 13.53 14.23
Landesmuseum	13.30 14.00	14.30	13.30 14.00 14.30

Barchetta bar (facing the river) shows the medieval river action circa 1570, including a mill on the bridge that raised drinking water to pipes that led to nearby buildings. Note the dock here for the riverboat-bus (described later, under “Sights in Zürich”; this stop is called Storchen).

The city’s oldest bridge, the ⑨ **Rathausbrücke**, goes back to Roman times, but now looks more like a concrete pier.

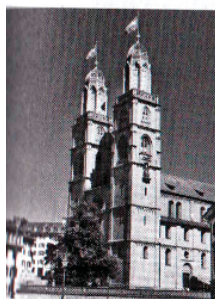
• Cross the bridge, passing the 17th-century, Renaissance-style City Hall (which faces a fancy Neoclassical police station), cross the tram tracks carefully, and walk a block straight uphill along Marktgasse, which brings you into the bustling...

▲▲Niederdorf

A district of colorful streets, fun shopping, restaurants, and nightlife, the Niederdorf neighborhood continues to the left along narrow Niederdorfstrasse, which was the leading commercial street before the old city wall was torn down to create Bahnhofstrasse. The Starbucks a block down from here faces a charming square. You can explore this area now...or, better yet, tonight (you’ll find some dining suggestions later, under “Eating in Zürich”).

To continue our walk, go in the opposite direction (right), heading up **Münstergasse**. Art enthusiasts know that, in 1916, the “anti-art” Dada movement was started at the Cabaret Voltaire (#26) by a group of rebellious young artists and writers. Although the Dada movement picked up steam, the cabaret itself lasted only until 1917: Complaints about excessive nightly noise forced its closure. At #19, pop into Schwarzenbach, a specialty grocery store that’s been operating here for more than 100 years. They still sell things the old-fashioned way (in loose bags, by weight). Inhale. Pick up 100 grams of dried bananas from Togo or some Thai sticks...of coconut, of course. Across the street, Zürich’s popular ⑩ **Conditorei Schober**, a riot of silk flowers, serves famously good (and expensive) hot chocolate and champagne truffles.

• Farther up the street is the...



⑪ Grossmünster

Literally the “big cathedral,” this ▲ church is where Huldrych Zwingli—whose angry religious fervor made Martin Luther seem mellow—sparked the Reformation in German-speaking Switzerland. The domes of its towers (early examples of Neo-Gothic) are symbols of Zürich. They were rebuilt following a 1781 fire, and after much civic discussion, were left a plain stone color.

Cost and Hours: Free; March-Oct Mon-

Sat 10:00-18:00, Sun 12:30-18:00; Nov-Feb until 17:00; pick up English story of the Swiss Reformation, www.grossmuenster.ch.

Visiting the Church: Step inside and sit down. Let the strength and purity of the 12th-century Romanesque architecture have its way with you. The simple round arches seem strong, and the wide triumphal arch separating the nave from the altar makes you feel like a winner. The impact of the architecture is made stronger because it's uncluttered—Zwingli's reforms led to a clean sweep of Catholic decor in 1519.

In the front are three **choir windows** by Augusto Giacometti (c. 1933). Mary and the Baby Jesus (at her feet) meet two of the three kings bearing their gifts, while angels hover above with offerings of flowers. In the **crypt** (stairs below altar), you'll see an original 15th-century statue of Charlemagne (a copy now fills its niche on the river side of the church exterior). For a sweeping city view, climb the 187 steps to the top of the **Karlsturm**, one of the church's twin towers (4 SF, Mon-Sat 10:00-17:00, Sun 12:30-17:00, Nov-Feb until 16:00).

Leaving the church, go right and into the corner, where a door leads to a fine Romanesque **cloister** ringed with fanciful 12th-century carvings (free, Mon-Fri 10:00-17:00, closed Sat-Sun). Upon entering, take 10 steps to the left and meet the sculptor (self-portrait on the highest arch).

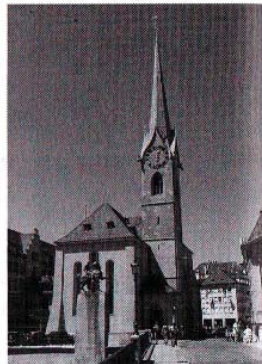
• *Cross back over the river to the tall-steepled church with "1732" on the tower.*

⑩ Fraumünster

This ▲▲ church was founded along with a convent in 853, when Zürich was little more than a village. The current building, which sits on the same footprint as its predecessor, dates from 1250. With the Reformation of Zwingli, the church was taken by the Zürich town council in 1524 and—you know the drill—gutted to fit Zwingli's taste. Today, it's famous for its windows by Chagall.

Cost and Hours: Free, Mon-Sat 10:00-18:00, Sun 12:30-18:00, Nov-March until 16:00, occasional evening concerts, www.fraumuenster.ch.

Visiting the Church: Enter the Fraumünster for a look at its claim to fame—a collection of 30-foot-tall stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall (1887-1985), the Russian-born French artist. Zürich's art museum hosted a Chagall retrospective in 1967. It so impressed the Fraumünster's pastor that he offered the world-famous artist



a commission. To his surprise, the 80-year-old Chagall accepted. Chagall designed the windows to stand in the church's spacious choir zone behind the altar—a space where he intuitively felt his unique mix of religious themes could flourish.

For the next three years, Chagall threw his heart and soul into the project, making the sketches at his home on the French Riviera, then working in close collaboration with a glassmaking factory in Reims, France. After the colored panes were made, Chagall outlined the figures in black, which were then baked into the glass. Chagall spent weeks in Zürich overseeing the installation, completed in 1970.

Chagall's inimitable painting style—deep colors, simple figures, and shard-like Cubism—is perfectly suited to the medium of stained glass. Blending Jewish and Christian traditions, Chagall created a work that can make people of many faiths comfortable.

The five windows depict Bible scenes, culminating in the central image of the crucified Christ. From left to right, they are as follows:

The Prophets (red): The prophet Elisha (bottom) looks up to watch a horse-drawn chariot carry his mentor Elijah off to heaven. Farther up, Jeremiah (blue in color and mood) puts his hand to his head and ponders the destruction of wicked Jerusalem. Up in heaven (top), a multicolored, multifaceted God spins out his creation, sending fiery beams down to inspire his prophets on earth. This window is artificially lit, as it's built into an interior wall.

Jacob (blue—Chagall's favorite color): Jacob (bottom, in deep purple amid deep blue) dreams of a ladder that snakes up to heaven, with red-tinged angels ascending and descending, symbolizing the connection between God above and Jacob's descendants (the Children of Israel) below.

Christ (green): The middle, and biggest, window depicts the central figure in God's plan of salvation—Jesus Christ, who, as the Messiah, fulfills the promises of the Old Testament prophets. Mother Mary suckles baby Jesus (bottom) amid the leafy family tree of Jesus' Old Testament roots. The central area is an indistinct jumble of events from Christ's life, leading up to his Crucifixion. The life-size ascendant Christ is crucified in a traditional medieval pose, but he's surrounded by a circle that seems to be bearing him, resurrected, to heaven. Chagall signed and dated the work (1970).

Zion (yellow): King David (bottom right) strums his harp and sings a psalm, while behind him stands his mistress Bathsheba, who gave birth to Solomon, the builder of Jerusalem's temple. At the end of history, an angel (top) blows a ram's horn, announcing the establishment of a glorious New Jerusalem, which descends (center), featuring rust-colored, yellow, and green walls, domes, and towers.

The Law (blue): Moses, with horns of light and the ten com-