

Switzerland

Switzerland borders Germany, France, Italy, Austria, and Liechtenstein. Almost all of the borders are in the Alps. Most of them are mountains and lakes. The terrain and climate are quite diverse. The area of Switzerland is 41,285 square kilometers (15,940 square miles) with a population of about 8.67 million, with an average population density of 219 people per square kilometer. There are more mountains in the south, and the population is far less than that in the north. The entire territory of Graubünden, the largest state, is located in the Alps, with a population density of only 28 people per square kilometer.

Weather

Switzerland's intermountain valleys have a mild climate, while the high mountains are colder. It is generally a temperate climate, but there are considerable differences in different regions. Switzerland has a transitional climate, from an oceanic climate in the west to a continental climate in the east. There is a glacial environment in the mountains, and the temperature in the mountains decreases as the altitude rises; while the southern part of Switzerland is close to the Mediterranean climate area, and the climate is more comfortable; some cold-resistant palms grow in the valleys of southern Switzerland. Summers are warmer and more humid with regular rainfall for grazing, while winters are drier with weeks of steady weather in the alpine regions and weeks without the sun in lower regions affected by temperature inversions.

Culture

Switzerland speaks four official languages, and its culture is quite diverse, which is also reflected in Switzerland's extensive traditional culture. The regions of Switzerland are highly related to the cultures of neighboring countries that speak the same language. Switzerland is also part of the Western European cultural circle.

Switzerland has made considerable achievements in the fields of literature, art, architecture, music and technology. Switzerland attracted foreign talents to emigrate during the turmoil and war in Europe. There are more than 900 museums in Switzerland, three times as many as in 1950. The most important cultural events each year are the Lucerne Music Festival, the Montreux Jazz Festival and the Locarno Film Festival.

The Alps have a very important position in Swiss history and are an important part of the formation of Swiss national identity. The Swiss Alpine region is a ski resort in winter, and hiking and mountain biking activities are available in summer; other regions are also quite suitable for tourism, and spring and autumn are low seasons for tourism. Traditional farming and herding cultures are still preserved in many places, and small pastures exist outside cities. The alphorn is a wooden instrument similar to a trumpet. Together with yodeling and the Swiss accordion, it has become the epitome of traditional Swiss music.

Cuisine

Swiss food is quite diverse, such as cheese fondue, raclette cheese and Swiss potato cakes are quite common all over Switzerland, and different cooking methods have been developed in different climates and language regions. The ingredients used in the traditional Swiss diet are not much different from those used in other European countries, but they are paired with unique dairy products and cheeses, such as Gruyère and Emmentaler cheeses. There are many excellent restaurants in Switzerland, mainly in western Switzerland.

The Swiss have been making chocolate since the 18th century. After the invention of conching and tempering techniques in the 19th century, the popularity of high-quality chocolate produced in Switzerland has also greatly increased. Daniel Peter invented milk chocolate in 1875. Switzerland is also one of the most important chocolate consumers in the world. Lindt, which translates as Lindt, and Toblerone, whose shape symbolizes the Matterhorn in Switzerland, are all well-known chocolate brands.

Tourism

1. Zurich

Zurich, located in the north-central part of the Swiss Confederation, is the largest city in the Swiss Confederation, the capital of the canton of Zurich, the national political, economic, cultural and transportation center, and the richest city in Europe. The city has been rated as one of the most livable cities in the world by the United Nations Habitat for many years.

2. Bern

Bern is the seat of the federal government of Switzerland. It is located in the Bernese Oberland, Switzerland. It is the fourth largest city after Zurich, Geneva and Basel, and the capital of the canton of Bern.

3. Lucerne

Known as the most beautiful and ideal tourist city in Switzerland, it is also the most popular Swiss holiday destination for Swiss people. Lucerne is a famous historical and cultural city, where artists get endless inspiration. Historically, many famous writers lived and wrote here.