

Zürich



Zürich is a city whose reputation precedes it – and does it a complete disservice, trashes its name, gives it a good kicking. A boring banking capital? ‘*Zu Reich*’ (too rich), business-minded and uptight? The spotless Singapore of Europe? If Switzerland’s largest metropolis once lived down to those dull descriptions, it certainly no longer does.

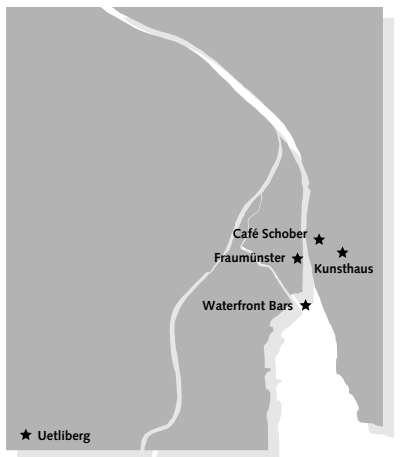
Contemporary Zürich might still be home to the world’s fourth-biggest stock exchange and remain Switzerland’s financial engine, but it’s also (whisper it softly) surprisingly vibrant and trendy. Located on a picturesque river and lake whose water you can drink, easy to get around and a stranger to the hassled lifestyle that defines bigger cities, this affluent, fashion-conscious place enjoys the finest things in life.

Hundreds of new bars, restaurants and clubs have opened since the late 1990s and, since its Street Parade overtook London’s Notting Hill Carnival, Zürich now hosts Europe’s largest annual street party. Its former industrial quarter brims with nightlife venues catering to a youngish crowd, and this happening ‘Züri-West’ district has the same buzz as Berlin’s Prenzlauerberg or Mitte. The infamous ‘gnomes’, as the British like to call Zürich’s bankers, are still here, but sometimes they can astonish you by whizzing by on a Segway scooter.

Fortunately, the city’s Protestant modesty saves it from ever becoming too *schmicki-micki* (chi-chi). With church steeples rising against a backdrop of hills and mountains, the medieval old town will also appeal to traditionalists.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Genuflecting before Marc Chagall’s stained-glass windows in the **Fraumünster** (opposite)
- Admiring the Alberto Giacometti stick figures, Dada and other modern art in Zürich’s **Kunsthaus** (p197)
- Sipping a hot *schoggi* (chocolate) and stock up on delicious souvenirs at **Café Schober** (p205)
- Heading to a **waterfront bar** (p198) in summer, either on Lake Zürich or the Limmat River
- Taking a train up **Uetliberg** (p208) for excellent hiking or panoramic views



■ POPULATION: 340,402

■ AREA: 1729 SQ KM

■ LANGUAGE: GERMAN

ORIENTATION

Zürich is on the northern bank of Zürichsee (Lake Zurich) with the Limmat River running further north still, splitting the medieval city centre in two. The narrow streets of the Niederdorf quarter on the river’s eastern bank is crammed with noisy bars and restaurants; down the western bank runs the expensive Bahnhofstrasse and other shopping streets. The main Hauptbahnhof (train station) is at the northern end of Bahnhofstrasse.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Orell Füssli (Map p202; ☎ 0848 849 848; Bahnhofstrasse 70; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Has an English-language section.

Travel Book Shop (Map p202; ☎ 044 252 38 83; Rindermarkt 20; ☎ 1-6pm Mon, 9am-6.30pm Tue-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat) English guidebooks and maps.

Discount Card

ZürichCard (per 24/72hr Sfr15/30) Available from the tourist office and the airport train station, this provides free public transport, free museums’ admission and more.

Emergency

Police station (Map p202; ☎ 044 216 71 11; Bahnhofquai 3)

Internet Access

E-café.ch Urania (Map p202; ☎ 044 210 33 11; Uraniastrasse 3; per hr Sfr15; ☎ 7.30am-11pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-11pm Sat, 10am-10pm Sun) Surf, type and print documents or connect your laptop here (Swiss-only power points, p313).

Quanta (Map p202; Limmatquai 94, im Niederdorf; per hr Sfr10, min charge Sfr5; ☎ 9am-midnight) Fairly noisy, but central.

Medical Services

Cantonal University Hospital (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 255 11 11; Rämistrasse 100) For emergency medical and dental help, ring ☎ 044 261 61 00.

Bellevue Apotheke (Map p202; ☎ 044 252 56 00; Theaterstrasse 14) A 24-hour chemist.

Post

Hauptbahnhof post office (Map p202; ☎ 7.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 7.30-11am Sat)

Sihlpost (Map pp196-7; ☎ 0848 84 84 42; Kasernenstrasse 95-97; ☎ 6.30am-10.30pm Mon-Fri, to 8pm Sat, 10am-10.30pm Sun)

01 BECOMES 044

The Zürich telephone prefix has changed from 01 to 044, but parallel dialling will operate until 31 March 2007. Before then, old Zürich numbers starting with 01 can still be dialled. From April 2007, however, try changing 01 to 044 – or search for a new number. The prefix 043 is also used in the region.

Tourist information

Zürich Tourism (Map p202; ☎ 044 215 40 00; www.zuerich.com; Hauptbahnhof; ☎ 8am-8.30pm Mon-Sat, 8.30am-6.30pm Sun May-Oct; 8.30am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-6.30pm Sun Nov-Apr) Offers excellent city walking tours and sells mountain day-trips.

SIGHTS Churches

The 13th-century **Fraumünster** (Map p202; Münsterhof; ☎ 9am-6pm May-Sep, 10am-5pm Mar, Apr & Oct, 10am-4pm Nov-Feb) is renowned for its distinctive stained-glass windows, designed by the then elderly Russian-Jewish artist Marc Chagall in 1967.

The three main windows are, from left to right, the blue ‘Jacob’ window, with a ladder to heaven; the green ‘Christ’ window, featuring Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus; and the yellow ‘Zion’ window depicting King David and Bathsheba being trumpeted into New Jerusalem. Additionally, the red-toned window on the left wall features various ‘Prophets’, while the ‘Law’ window opposite has Moses looking down on a disobedient people.

The window near the main exit of the church is by Augusto Giacometti.

More of Augusto Giacometti’s work is on show across the river in the twin-towered **Grossmünster** (Map p202; ☎ 9am-6pm daily mid-Mar-Oct, 10am-5pm Nov-mid-Mar, tower closed Sun morning mid-Mar-Oct & all Sun Nov-mid-Mar). This landmark cathedral was founded by Charlemagne in the 9th century. But more importantly it’s where preacher Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531) began speaking out against the Catholic Church in the 16th century, and thus brought the Reformation and Protestantism’s sober lifestyle to Zürich. Today, you can climb the **south tower** (admission Sfr2; ☎ 9.15am-5pm Mar-Oct).

From any position in the city, it’s hard to overlook the 13th-century tower of **St Peterskirche** (Map p202; St Peter’s Church; St Peterhofstatt). Its

ZÜRICH

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prominent clock face, 8.7m in diameter, is the largest in Europe.

Museums

Compact Zürich has 45 museums; get a comprehensive list from the tourist office.

KUNSTHAUS

After a major renovation in 2005, Zürich's **Museum of Fine Arts** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 253 84 84; www.kunsthau.ch; Heimplatz 1; adult/student & senior Sfr12/7, free Sun; ☎ 10am-9pm Tue-Thu, 10am-5pm Fri-Sun) is looking better than ever, with its rich collection of Alberto Giacometti stick-figure sculptures, Monets, Van Goghs, Rodin sculptures and other 19th- and 20th-century art. Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler is also represented.

LE CORBUSIER PAVILION

Many international visitors are mystified that Zürich doesn't make more of the stunning **Le Corbusier Pavilion and Heidi Weber museum** (Zürichhorn park; adult/concession Sfr12/8; ☎ 2-5pm Sat & Sun Jun-Sep). However, as a cash-strapped private museum its opening times are sadly limited. Looking like a Mondrian painting set in parkland, with differently coloured square panels, glass and steel, this was the last building designed by Le Corbusier (who died in 1965). Completed after his death, it long lay unused, but now contains many of his architectural plans, drawings, weavings, paintings, furniture and books – all collected by client, fan and friend Heidi Weber. The exterior alone is worth seeing.

MUSEUM FÜR GESTALTUNG

The exhibitions at Zürich's **Design Museum** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 043 446 67 67; www.museum-gestaltung.ch; Ausstellungstrasse 60; adult/concession Sfr7/4; ☎ 10am-8pm Tue-Thu, 10am-5pm Fri-Sun) are consistently impressive. The curators take such a broad interpretation of their brief that they have covered everything from Bollywood's love affair with Switzerland (see the boxed text *The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Hindi*, p155) to dendrites (tree-like structures found throughout nature). The **Plaktraum** (Poster Collection; Map pp196-7; Limmatstrasse 55-7; ☎ 1-5pm Tue-Sat) draws on a huge archive of vintage tourism, Dada and other posters.

SCHWEIZERISCHES LANDESMUSEUM

The big **Swiss National Museum** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 218 65 11; www.musee-suisse.ch; Museumstrasse 2;

WATERFRONT ZÜRICH

Zürich really comes into its own in its Mediterranean-like summer, when the green parks lining the lake are overrun with bathers, sunseekers, in-line skaters, footballers, lovers, picnickers, party animals, preeners and other hedonists. (Some police even patrol on rollerblades!) Between May and the middle of September, outdoor swimming areas are open around the lake and up the Limmat River.

Official swimming areas are usually rectangular wooden piers with a pavilion covering part of them and most offer massages, yoga, saunas and snacks. Admission is Sfr6, and swimming areas are open from 9am to 7pm in May and September and 9am to 8pm from June to August. One of the most central is **Seebad Enge** (Map pp196-7; Mythenquai 95), on the left shore near the laid-back Arbo-return. On the opposite shore, adjacent to the Zürichhorn park, is **Bad Utoquai** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 251 61 51; Utoquai 49). Of course, there are plenty of free, unofficial places to take a dip, too.

Along the river, the 19th-century **Frauenbad** (Map p202; Stadthausquai) and its snack bar is only open to women during the day. Come nightfall, though, they let up to 150 men into the **Barfussbar** (Barefoot bar; Map p202; ☎ 044 261 75 68; www.barfussbar.ch; Stadthausquai; ♿ from 8.30pm Wed-Sun) here. As the name implies, gents must leave their shoes at the entrance.

One favourite is **Letten** (Map pp196-7; Lettensteg), further north up the river, where Züri-West trendsetters swim, barbecue, skateboard, play volleyball, or just drink and chat on the grass and concrete. A former S-Bahn carriage from Berlin has been transformed into Bar Offen and there's the pavilion-style **El Primitivo** (Map pp196-7; ♿ 11am-11pm).

Also highly recommended is the **Männerbad** (Map pp196-7; Schanzengraben), tucked away on the Venice-like Schanzengraben canal, behind the Hallenbad and below the Old Botanic Gardens. It's men-only by day, but women are welcome to join them in the evenings at the fantastic **Rimini Bar** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 211 9594; www.rimini.ch; ♿ 7.30pm-midnight in good weather only).

Lake cruises (☎ 044 487 13 33; www.zsg.ch) run regularly between April and October and sporadically in winter, depending on the weather. They leave from Bürkliplatz (Map pp196-7). A small circular tour (*kleine Rundfahrt*), takes 1½ hours (adult/child Sfr7.20/3.60, Swiss Pass and Eurail valid, Inter Rail 50% discount) and departs every 30 minutes from 9am to 7pm. A longer tour (*grosse Rundfahrt*) lasts four hours (adult/child Sfr22/11, passes valid as before) with eight daily departures from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

There are also other services to Rapperswil (see p208) or dinner cruises.

Riverboats (Limmatstschiffe; ☎ 044 487 13 33; www.zsg.ch; Sfr3.60, day passes valid; ♿ every 30 min Jun-Sep, reduced service in winter) run down the river and then do a small circle around the lake (55 minutes). Boats fill rapidly and your best chance of getting on board is at the Schweizerisches Landemuseum (Map pp196-7) or Zürichhorn Casino, rather than Bürkliplatz.

Boat hire is also possible on the lake, especially of pedalos and row boats. Prices start at Sfr16, plus Sfr50 to Sfr100 deposit, for 30 minutes. There's a rental site at Bürkliplatz (Map pp196-7), plus one near every official swimming area.

For a month from mid-July, there's an extremely popular waterside **open-air cinema** (☎ 0800 078 078; www.orangecinema.ch; Zürichhorn).

permanent collection adult/concession Sfr5/3, special exhibition prices vary; ♿ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) is a large cream cake of a museum that, however excellent, should be taken in small bites. The permanent collection includes a trail through Swiss history, plus there are usually enticing special exhibitions. A new annexe is under construction until 2008, but the museum should remain open throughout.

MUSEUM RIETBERG

An unexpectedly wonderful collection of African, Oriental and ancient American art

is found in the **Museum Rietberg** (☎ 044 206 31 31; www.rietberg.ch; Gablerstrasse 15; permanent collection adult/concession Sfr6/3, special exhibitions Sfr5/3 extra; ♿ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun, to 8pm Wed Apr-Sep; 10am-5pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar). It's set in three villas in a leafy park.

MODERN ART MUSEUMS

Note that modern art exhibitions are frequently held in the airport, in its unused terminal.

Cabaret Voltaire (Map p202; ☎ 043 268 57 20; www.cabaretvoltaire.ch; Spiegelgasse 1; admission varies, free

COMPLETELY DADA

Antibourgeois, rebellious, nihilistic and deliberately nonsensical, the Dada art movement grew out of revulsion to WWI and the increasing mechanisation of modern life. Its proponents paved the way for nearly every form of contemporary art by using collage, extracting influences from indigenous art, applying abstract notions to writing, film and performance and taking manufactured objects and redefining them as art. Marcel Duchamp's somewhat damaged *Urinal* (a urinal as art piece) conveys the idea succinctly.

Dada artists worked in New York, Paris and Berlin, but the movement was born in Zürich. Hugo Ball, Tristan Tzara and Emmy Jennings' creation of the Cabaret Voltaire in February 1916 kicked off a series of raucous cabaret and performance art events at a room in a pub at Spiegelgasse 1, which has recently reopened (see opposite). The name Dada, according to the most generally accepted account, was chosen randomly by stabbing a knife through a French/German dictionary.

By 1923, the movement was to all intents and purposes dead, but its spirit lives on in the works of actual Dadaists like Georg Grosz, Hans Arp and Max Ernst and of those infected with its ideas such as Duchamp and photographer Man Ray. Dadaist works are in Zürich's Kunsthaus (p197) and the Poster Collection of the Museum für Gestaltung (p197).

to café/bar; ♿ 1-7pm Tue-Sun) is the birthplace of the iconoclastic Dada art movement (see the boxed text Completely Dada, above). It has been reopened as an exhibition space cum café/bar, dedicated to modern Swiss art and hosting Dada-related events.

Migros Museum (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 277 20 50; www.migrosmuseum.ch; Limmatstrasse 270; adult/concession Sfr8/4, combined admission with Kunsthalle Sfr12/6; ♿ noon-6pm Tue-Fri, to 8pm Thu, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun) is one of two main museums in the converted Löwenbräu brewery, which also houses several galleries, a bookshop, a bar and a club.

JAMES JOYCE IN ZÜRICH

One of the greatest works of English literature, James Joyce's *Ulysses*, was written in Zürich and its author is buried here. Irish Joyce was just one disgruntled intellectual – Lenin and Trotsky were others – who took refuge in this neutral city during WWI, and he finished his epic during wartime exile here (1915–19). He returned shortly before dying in January 1941 and his carefully tended grave is found in Fluntern Cemetery; take tram No 6 to Zoo.

The **James Joyce Foundation** (Map p202; www.joycefoundation.ch; Augustinerstrasse 9; admission free; ♿ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri) hosts regular public readings in English from *Ulysses* (5.30pm to 7pm Tuesday) and *Finnegan's Wake* (4.30pm to 6pm and 7pm to 8.30pm Thursday).

Kunsthalle Zürich (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 272 15 15; www.kunsthallezurich.ch; Limmatstrasse 270; adult/concession Sfr8/4, combined entry Sfr12/6; ♿ noon-6pm Tue-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun), like the Migros Museum, features changing exhibitions of contemporary art, particularly conceptual works.

OTHER MUSEUMS

Johann Jacobs Museum (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 388 61 51; Seefeldquai 17; adult/concession Sfr5/3; ♿ 2-7pm Fri, 2-5pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun) is as addictive as the coffee to which it is devoted. Temporary exhibitions range from the scientific effects of caffeine to displays of chinaware.

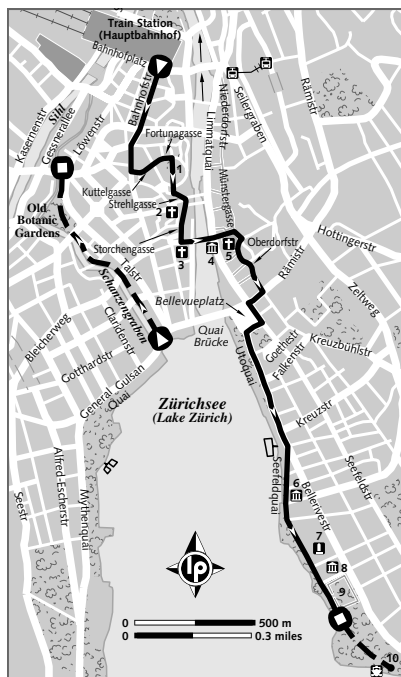
Beyer Museum (Map p202; ☎ 043 344 63 63; Bahnhofstrasse 31; adult/child Sfr5/free; ♿ 2-6pm Mon-Fri) is a small museum chronicling the rise of time-keeping, from striated medieval candles to modern watches.

Zoo

Zoo Dolder (www.zoo.ch; Zürichbergstrasse 221; adult/student Sfr16/8; ♿ 8am-6pm), up on the Zürichberg, has an expansive location, 1800 animals and a re-created rainforest. Take tram No 6 to Zoo station.

WALKING TOUR

Start at the Hauptbahnhof and head south along Bahnhofstrasse. This isn't the prettiest part of Zürich, but the many expensive shops will swiftly give you the measure of the place. The street, which follows the route of the former city walls, isn't exactly paved with gold, but it adds a certain thrill

**WALK FACTS**

Start Hauptbahnhof
Finish Casino
Distance 5km
Duration 2 hours

to know that the bank vaults underfoot are full of that precious metal.

Turn left at Kuttelgasse and continue into Fortunagasse, before turning right into the **Lindenhof (1)**. This leafy raised terrace on the west bank of the river is where the Romans established their first customs post in 15 BC. Today it's a popular meeting spot, with views of terraced buildings lining the riverbank and the hills behind.

Now, head down the hill along Strehlgasse and Storchengasse, under the huge clock-face of **St Peter's (2)**; p195). Take some time to look at the windows of the **Fraumünster (3)**; p195), before crossing the bridge past the **Helmhaus (4)**; www.helmhaus.org; Limmatquai 31; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, to 8pm Thu) contemporary art gallery. From

here, climb the stairs to the **Grossmünster (5)**; p195).

To the north lies a narrow tangle of cobblestone medieval streets, most famously Niederdorfstrasse. This is the main tourist drag and you're bound to wander through here at some point. For the moment, however, turn south and head along the slightly less congested and commercialised Oberdorfstrasse. Turn right at Rämistrasse, through Bellevue and begin the hugely enjoyable stroll along the eastern bank of the lake. Continue past the **Johann Jacobs Museum (6)**; p199) and Henry Moore's **sheep sculpture (7)** until you come to **Le Corbusier Pavilion (8)**; p197) and the **Chinese Garden (9)**. To save yourself the long trek back, continue to the **Casino (10)** and catch a city boat back up the river.

If you've still got energy to burn, a less well-known side of Zürich can be explored by wandering up the Schanzengraben canal and through the Old Botanic Gardens.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The following are just the most important; for a full list of events, see www.zuerich.com.

Sechseläuten During this Spring festival on the third Monday of April, guild members parade down the streets in historical costume and a fireworks-filled 'snowman' (the *Böögg*) is ignited to celebrate the end of winter.

Street Parade (☎ 044 215 40 00; www.street-parade.ch) This techno celebration in the middle of August is usually Europe's largest street party in any given year.

Knabenschiesen (www.knabenschiesen.ch in German) Huge shooting competition for 12- to 17-year olds in late September.

SLEEPING Budget**HOSTELS**

Note that Hotel Martahaus (opposite) and Hotel Foyer Hottingen (opposite) also have a few dorm beds each – for women only.

SYHA hostel (Map p202; ☎ 043 399 78 00; www.youthhostel.ch; Mütschellenstrasse 114, Wollishofen; dm Sfr38, s/d Sfr99/116; ☎) Expensively overhauled in 2005, this huge hostel now features a swish reception/dining hall and sparkling modern bathrooms. Dorms remain quite small, though. Take tram No 7 to Morgental, or S-Bahn to Wollishofen.

City Backpacker (Hotel Biber; Map p202; ☎ 044 251 90 15; www.city-backpacker.ch; Niederdorfstrasse 5; dm Sfr31, sheets extra Sfr3, s/d Sfr66/92; ☎) reception closed noon-3pm) Friendly and well equipped, if a

trifle cramped. In summer, you can always overcome the claustrophobia by hanging out on the roof terrace.

B&B

Dakini (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 291 42 20; www.dakini.ch; Brauerstrasse 87; s Sfr65-85, d Sfr90-135; ☎) This relaxed B&B attracts a bohemian crowd of artists and performers, academics and trendy tourists who don't bat an eyelid at its location near the red-light district. Four double rooms and two singles are spread across a couple of apartments over two floors, sharing the kitchen and bathroom on each. Take tram No 8 to Bäckeranlage.

HOTELS

Justinusheim (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 361 38 06; Freudenbergrasse 146; s/d from Sfr40/80; s with bathroom Sfr70-80, d Sfr110-120) This student home usually has a few beds for travellers, and there are certainly plenty during university holidays. It's in a splendid, leafy location overlooking the city, yet only 10 minutes from its heart. Take tram No 10 to Seilbahn Rigiblick, then the funicular.

Etap Hotel Zürich City-Technopark (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 276 20 00; www.etaphotel.com; Technoparkstrasse 2; s/d/tr Sfr82/92/102) Its capsule-sized bathrooms, industrial park location and garish décor render this completely charmless. However, you won't get clean, modern, in-room facilities and TV for less and it's very handy for clubbing in Züri-West. Take tram No 4 or 13 to Escher-Wyss-Platz.

CAMPING

Camping Seebucht (☎ 044 482 16 12; Seestrasse 559; adult/tent/car Sfr9.50/12/5; ☎ 1 May-30 Sep) Four kilometres from the city centre and on the western shore of the lake, this has good facilities. Take bus No 161 or 165 from Bürkliplatz.

Midrange

Hotel Martahaus (Map p202; ☎ 044 251 45 50; www.martahaus.ch; Zähringerstrasse 36; dm Sfr38, s/d Sfr85/100, with bathroom Sfr115/150) With 1970s black leather lounges in the very spacious breakfast room-cum-lounge and a roof terrace, this is a fun, friendly place to stay. Other features include a bar, laundry and gym. There's a lot of street noise, though, and the shared bathrooms are a bit of a squeeze.

Hotel Foyer Hottingen (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 256 19 19; www.hotel-hottingen.ch; Hottingerstrasse 31; dm

HILLSIDE HIDEAWAYS

Two of Zürich's most memorable hotels overlook the city from the hills above.

Uto Kulm Uetliberg (☎ 044 457 66 66; www.utokulm.ch; Uetliberg; s Sfr150-300, d Sfr250-400, ste Sfr450-900) Luxurious Uto Kulm is perfect for a romantic retreat with its preponderance of spa baths and big beds. Take the S10 to Uetliberg (p208) and staff will collect you.

Hotel Zürichberg (☎ 044 268 35 35; www.zuerichberg.ch; Orellistrasse 21; s Sfr195-260, d Sfr270-340) This sleek hotel welcomes a mix of families and businesspeople. The original 19th-century pavilion has an oval-shaped modern annexe, clad in wood, where rooms are arranged around a circular interior ramp reminiscent of New York's Guggenheim museum. Take tram No 6 to Zoo.

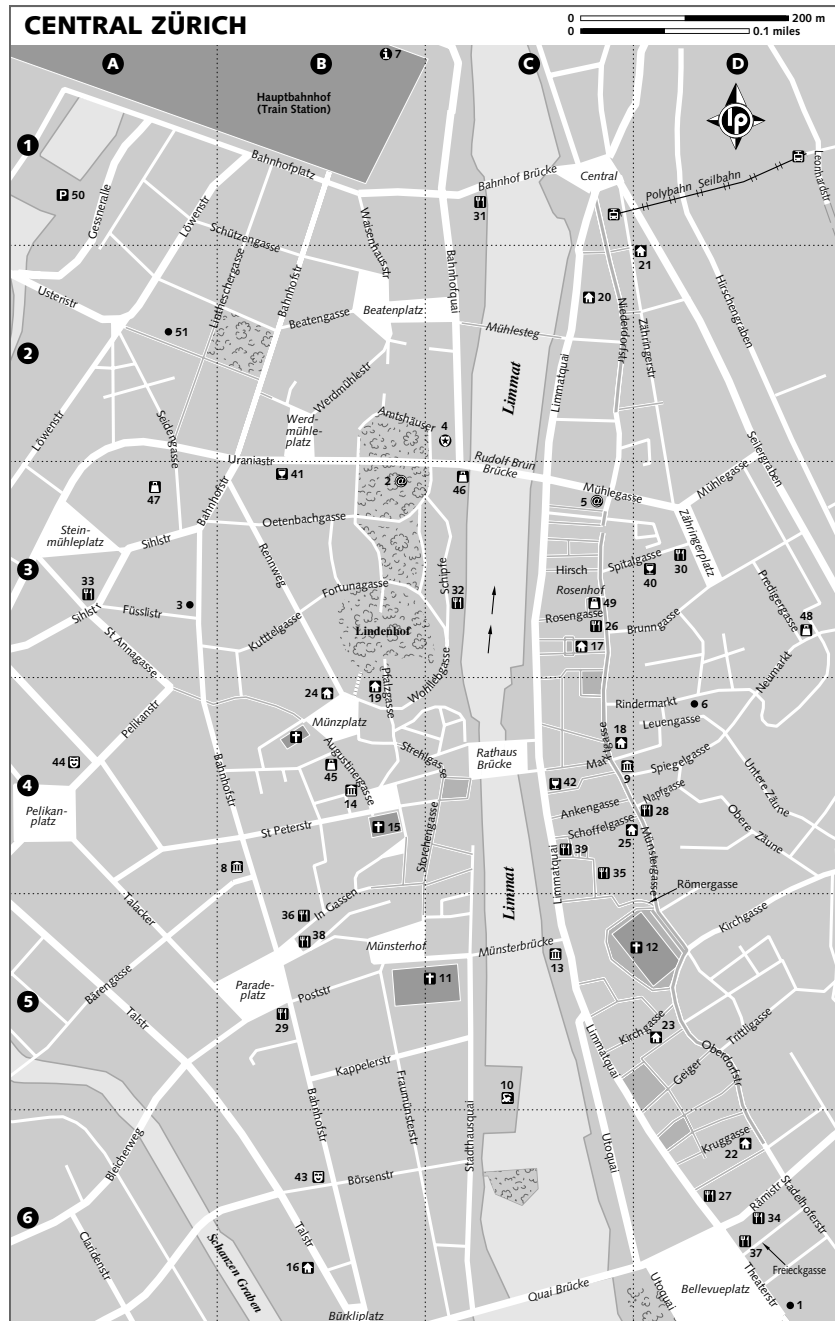
Sfr38, s/d Sfr75/115; s with bathroom Sfr110-125, d Sfr155-165) Much the same deal as Hotel Martahaus, but with more muted décor, fewer facilities and a quieter location. The clientele is also slightly older and less funky.

Hotel Plattenhof (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 251 19 10; www.plattenhof.ch; Plattenstrasse 26; new s/d Sfr235/305, old s/d Sfr165/205; ☎) This youthful design hotel has low beds, in a vaguely Japanese style, plus mood lighting in its newest rooms. It's cool without being pretentious, and even the 'old' rooms are stylishly minimalist. Take tram No 6 to Platte.

Hotel Rössli (Map p202; ☎ 044 256 70 50; www.hotelroessli.ch; Rössligasse 7; s Sfr180-200, d Sfr210-280, ste Sfr650-850) There's a calming, ascetic quality to this boutique hotel with its white walls and furnishings only occasionally disrupted by greys, mint greens or pale blues. It also has an elegant bar.

Hotel Seehof (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 254 57 57; www.hotelseehof.ch; Seehofstrasse 11) A near-identical sister establishment of Hotel Rössli.

Lady's First (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 380 80 10; www.ladysfirst.ch; Mainaustrasse 24; s Sfr195-230, d Sfr245-320; ☎) Don't be fooled by the name; this renovated establishment now also welcomes men. Rooms provide a pleasant mixture of traditional parquet flooring and quality modern furnishings. The hotel spa and its accompanying roof terrace remain reserved for female guests only. Take tram No 4 to Feldeggstrasse.



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Hotel Greulich (Map pp196-7; ☎ 043 243 42 43; www.greulich.ch; Hermann Greulich Strasse 56; s Sfr180-240, d Sfr255-320; ☒) It's hard to better *Condé Nast Traveller's* description of this super-sleek pad as 'bride-of-Bauhaus' functionalist. Behind the blue-grey outer walls, you find an ascetic inner courtyard with exposed concrete and evenly planted birch trees, and the minimalist, off-white rooms are laid out in facing bungalows along two sides of this. Chef David Martinez-Savany believes in genuine 'slow food' and serves much-lauded Spanish cuisine.

Hotel Seefeld (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 387 41 41; www.hotel-seefeld.ch; Seefeldstrasse 63; s Sfr185-240, d Sfr290-360; ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒) The cool, modern design here is a trifle formulaic, but the range of facilities is excellent. Each floor is decorated in a different colour, so you can take your pick.

Hotel Seegarten (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 388 37 37; www.hotel-seegarten.ch; Seegartenstrasse 14; s Sfr180-220,

d Sfr260-300) Rattan furniture and vintage tourist posters give this place a rustic Mediterranean atmosphere, which is reinforced by the proximity to the lake and the on-site Italian restaurant.

Hotel Kindli (Map p202; ☎ 043 888 76 76; www.kindli.ch; Pfalzgasse 1; s/d Sfr160/210, s with bathroom Sfr260-360, d Sfr360-420; ☒) This family-run hotel puts out the welcome mat for those who prefer cosy, traditional hotels, with its checked cushions and floral curtains. Tucked away in the old town on the west bank, in a 16th-century building, it's central but quiet.

Romantik Hotel Florhof (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 250 26 26; www.florhof.ch; Florhofgasse 4; s Sfr220-290, d Sfr330-380) Another traditional hotel, this nestles in a lovely garden, a stone's throw from the Kunsthaus.

Also recommended:

Hotel Adler (Map p202; ☎ 044 266 96 96; www.hotel-adler.ch; Niederdorferstrasse 34; s/d from Sfr140/190; ☒ ☒) Very pleasant, clean and comfortable, with tasteful trompe l'oeils of the Zürich skyline.

Hotel Limmatblick (Map p202; ☎ 044 254 60 00; www.limmatblick.ch; Limmatquai 136; s/d from Sfr190/200; ☒ ☒) Small, stylish rooms dedicated to Dada artists. Central but noisy location.

Goldenes Schwert (Map p202; ☎ 044 250 70 80; www.gayhotel.ch; Marktgasse 14; s/d from Sfr130/165) Gay-friendly hotel with some elaborately themed rooms. The top floor gets the least noise from the downstairs disco.

Top End

Hotel Widder (Map p202; ☎ 044 224 25 26; www.widderhotel.ch; Rennweg 7; s/d from Sfr405/610) This

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Hotel Otter (Map p202; ☎ 044 251 22 07; www.wueste.ch; Oberdorfstrasse 7; s Sfr100, d Sfr135-170) A true gem among Zürich hotels, this colourful place prides itself on being alternative. It certainly is that, with 17 rooms variously decorated with pink satin sheets and plastic beads, raised beds, wall murals, religious grottos and in one instance a hammock. A popular bar, the Wüste, is downstairs.

crisp and stylish hotel is a perfect example of the Swiss ability to combine modernity with traditional charm, with eight old townhouses given a Scandinavian-style makeover. Without the pomposity that permeates many similar establishments, the popular Widder Bar remains famous for its jazz and range of malt whiskeys.

Baur au Lac (Map p202; ☎ 044 220 50 20; www.bauraulac.ch; Talstrasse 1; s/d Sfr460/680; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) This is *the* most exclusive place in town (at least until the Dolder, following, reopens) – with sumptuous rooms, outstanding service, a spa and a private park.

Dolder Grand Hotel (☎ 044 269 30 00; www.doldergrand.ch; Kurhausstrasse 65) For many years, Europe's premier hotel, this 19th-century Zürichberg palace is getting a makeover from Sir Norman Foster, establishing it as one of the world's best on its reopening in spring 2007. See the website for prices when they become available.

EATING

Zürich's denizens have the choice of an astounding 2000 places to eat and party.

Budget

Tibits by Hiltl (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 260 32 22; Seefeldstrasse 2; meals per 100g Sfr3.70; ☎ 6.30am-midnight daily, from 8am Sat & from 9am Sun) Tibits is where with-it, health-conscious Zürichers head for a light bite when meeting friends. There's a tasty vegetarian buffet, fresh fruit juices, coffees and cake.

Hiltl (Map p202; ☎ 044 227 70 00; Sihlstrasse 28; mains Sfr22-28; ☎ 10am-10.30pm) The original Hiltl was planning a renovation and temporary move to Paradeplatz, so call ahead.

Sternen Grill (Map p202; Bellevueplatz/Theatrestrasse 22; snacks from Sfr5-8; ☎ 11.30am-midnight) This is the city's most famous – and busiest – sausage stand; just follow the crowds streaming in for a tasty greasefest.

Eat And Meet/Schöpfe 16 (Map p202; Schöpfe 16; menus Sfr16-20; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, drinks until 6pm) A pleasant dining room overlooking the Limmat River from the historic Schöpfe area, this serves humble lunches, from Mediterranean to Indian to Swiss.

Café Zähringer (Map p202; Zähringerplatz 11; mains from Sfr18.50; ☎ 6pm-midnight Mon, 8am-midnight Tue-Sun) This very old-school alternative café serves up mostly organic, vegetarian food around communal tables.

For self-caterers there's a central **Coop supermarket** (Map p202; Bahnhofbrücke 1; ☎ 7am-8pm Mon-Fri, 7am-6pm Sat)

Midrange SWISS

Traditional local cuisine is very rich, as epitomised by the city's signature dish of *Zürcher Geschnetzeltes*, or sliced veal in a creamy mushroom sauce.

Zeughauskeller (Map p202; ☎ 044 211 26 90; Bahnhofstrasse 28a; most mains Sfr15-30; ☎ 11.30am-11pm) The menu at this huge, atmospheric beer hall offers 20 different kinds of sausages in eight languages, as well as numerous other Swiss specialties of a carnivorous and vegetarian variety.

Restaurant Kropf (Map p202; In Gassen 16; mains Sfr20-36; ☎ 11.30am-11.30pm Mon-Sat) Notable for its historic interior, with marble columns and ceiling murals, Kropf is more favoured by locals for its hearty Swiss staples and fine beers.

Adler's Swiss Chuchi (Map p202; ☎ 044 266 96 66; Rosengasse 10; most mains Sfr25-35; ☎ 11am-11pm) Adler's is a decent and simple, albeit touristy, option if you're looking for fondue or raclette.

Le Dezaile (Map p202; ☎ 044 251 61 29; Römeggasse 7 & 9; small dishes from Sfr11, mains Sfr24-46; ☎ Mon-Sat) Tucked away in an alley below the Grossmünster, this is a little part of French Switzerland in Zürich and regarded as one of the places to try fondue.

INTERNATIONAL

Spice Gourmet (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 201 05 66; Seestrasse 43; mains Sfr20-36; ☎ Mon-Sat) It's worth the short trip south of the centre to eat in the familiar surrounds of this 30-seat restaurant/shop, whose menu travels between India, Southeast Asia and South America.

Lily's Stomach Supply (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 440 18 85; Langstrasse 197; most mains Sfr18-25; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Sat, 3pm-midnight Sun) This trendy noodle-bar's convenient location and casual, upbeat atmosphere is what's most appealing, although its food is generally quite respectable.

Il Posito Solito (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 272 62 92; Gasometerstrasse 26; pizzas Sfr14-22, mains Sfr22-45; ☎ Mon-Sat) A meeting spot for the city's young trendsetters, this hectic, familiar Italian eatery reputedly serves Zürich's best pizzas. While not *entirely* convinced on that front,

AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Blindekuh (Blind Man's Bluff; ☎ 044 421 50 50; Mühlebachstrasse 148; lunch/evening mains from Sfr25/35; ☎ 11.30am-2pm & 6-11pm Tue-Fri, 6-11pm Mon & Sat, bar 9-11pm daily) This eatery remains truly unusual, where you eat and drink in darkness. Run by people with impaired vision as a means of sharing their experience, this restaurant is booked out for months for dinner, but lunch (plus some last-minute evening) reservations are possible.

we'll always be tempted back by the pumpkin gnocchi and other homemade pasta.

Josef (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 271 65 95; Gasometerstrasse 24; mains Sfr20-48; ☎ Mon-Sat) A Züri-West stalwart, Josef frequently changes its décor and Swiss-Italian menu, but always has a good wine list and remains constantly popular with the in set.

Giesserei (☎ 044 205 10 10; Birchstrasse 108; mains Sfr24-38; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, dinner Sat, brunch & dinner Sun) This former factory in Oerlikon is a winner with its scuffed post-industrial atmosphere and pared-down menu (three starters, three mains and three desserts). Sufficient hip customers offset the suits from nearby PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Take tram No 11 to Regensbergbrücke.

Angkor (Map pp196-7; ☎ 043 205 28 88; Giesserei-strasse 18; mains Sfr26-48) The Angkor's opulent Oriental interior and papyrus menu of authentically spicy Thai, Cambodian, Japanese and Chinese cuisine makes up for its concrete-wrapped Technopark location.

Top End

LaSalle (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 258 70 71; Schiffbaustrasse 4; mains Sfr25-50; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Tue, 11-1am Wed-Thu, 11-2am Fri, 6pm-2am Sat, 5pm-2am Sun) This modern Italian brasserie is a popular haunt for Zürich's beautiful people, where a huge glass cube bedecked with chandeliers and a long bar sits inside an even bigger converted warehouse (the so-called Schiffbauhaus).

Seidenspinner (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 241 07 00; Ankerstrasse 120; most mains Sfr30-55; ☎ 11am-midnight Tue-Sat) A favourite with the media and fashion crowd (it's attached to a leading fabric design shop), Silk-spinner boasts an extravagant interior, with huge flower arrangements and shards of mirrored glass covering the walls. Russian stroganoff and

borsch stand out on a mainly modern international menu.

Caduff's Wine Loft (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 240 22 66; Kanzleistrasse 126; mains Sfr25-60, 4-course menu Sfr115; ☎ Mon-Sat) A light-infused but deliberately understated interior draws your attention to the wine behind the long bar here. There are 2500 varieties, which the waiters will helpfully match with your Mediterranean/Swiss meal.

Zunftaus zum Rüden (Map p202; ☎ 044 261 95 66; Limmatquai 42; mains Sfr45-70, menu Sfr140; ☎ Mon-Fri) In the 14th century, Zürich's craftsmen formed themselves into 13 guilds, and this building belonged to the noble *Constaffel* society, whose ranks included the mayor for a time. In the stunning Gothic dining room, you can sample Swiss staples and seasonally changing international cuisine.

Kronenhalle (Map p202; ☎ 044 251 66 69; Rämistrasse 4; mains Sfr30-80; ☎ noon-midnight) The city's top restaurant is a very upmarket, brasserie-style establishment, with white tablecloths and lots of dark wood. Impeccably mannered waiters move discreetly below Chagall, Miro, Matisse and Picasso originals.

DRINKING

For the main drinking options, see the boxed texts Waterfront Zürich, p198, and Zürich's Trendquartier, p206.

Wings (Map p202; ☎ 268 40 55; Limmatquai 54) When Swissair went bankrupt in 2001, some former employees set up this lounge bar using the airline's cutlery, crockery and even a few aeroplane seats. Given a few Hawaiian additions, it's Barry Manilow meets *Wallpaper** magazine.

Jules Verne Panorama Bar (Map p202; ☎ 043 888 66 66; Uraniastrasse 9; entry through Brasserie Lipp; ☎ daily) Decked out like the basket of a hot-air balloon, this classic bar – welcoming all ages – boasts fantastic views.

Café Schober (Map p202; Napfgasse 4; ☎ 8am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 5.30pm Sat, 10am-5.30pm Sun) A kitsch, fairy-tale grotto of a café, with huge bouquets of flowers tied with ribbons to ceiling arches, Schober serves a serious hot chocolate (made from real *schoggi* instead of cocoa powder) and shouldn't be missed.

Café Odeon (Map p202; Bellevueplatz) This one-time haunt of Lenin and the Dadaists is still a prime people-watching spot for gays and straights alike. Come for the Art Nouveau interior, but ignore the quite ordinary food.

ZÜRICH'S 'TRENDQUARTIER'

Zürich's former industrial area has, as in many cities, become its hippest neighbourhood, but the much-vaunted 'Züri-West' quarter (roughly west of the train station) actually straddles several districts.

Züri-West proper starts at Escher-Wyss Platz in the industrial surrounds of Kreis 5 (district 5). In the cluster of nightspots you'll find the relaxed **4 Akt** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 271 03 68; Heinrichstrasse 262) and the chic **Hard One** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 444 10 00; Heinrichstrasse 269). The latter is a glass cube of a lounge bar with great views, serving wine, whisky, champagne and cigars. At the back of the same building is the popular **Cinemax** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 273 22 22; Heinrichstrasse 269) multiplex.

Good views are also had from **Nieturm** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 258 70 71; Schiffbaustrasse 4; from 6pm Wed-Sun) in the nearby Schiffbauhaus. In this complex, which also hosts **La Salle** (see p205), you'll find the city's top jazz/funk club, **Moods** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 276 80 00; www.moods.ch; Schiffbaustrasse 6; ☎ from midnight Fri & Sat).

Clubs, bars, restaurants and hotels further west are also part of the industrial zone, but Züri-West is pretty loosely defined and also usually encompasses the (still slightly active) red-light district in Kreis 4 further east. Langstrasse is the main artery here, with popular bars clustered along its side streets. Neugasse, with retro **Acapulco** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 272 66 88; Neugasse 56; ☎ from 3pm) and cinema-cum-bistro bar **Riff Raff** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 444 22 05; Neugasse 57; ☎ from 8am Mon-Fri, from 10am Sat & Sun), is rich with possibilities, while a little further south is the fantastic **Liquid** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 291 12 91; Zwinglistrasse 12; ☎ from 5pm Tue-Fri, from 8pm Sat) with striped wallpaper and moulded plastic chairs.

Gasometerstrasse, parallel to Langstrasse, is also worth visiting for **Josef** (p205), **Il Posito Solito** (p204) and other bars and restaurants.

At the far northeast end of Langstrasse is the bar/lounge/restaurant/hotel/club complex **X-tra Limmathaus** (Map pp196-7; Limmattstrasse 118; ☎ Wed-Mon). This is mostly populated by teens and early 20s, although a broader public enjoys its Monday-night start to the week.

West along Limmattstrasse heading back towards Kreis 5, you'll find the new Löwenbräu Areal, a former brewery that now has contemporary art galleries, a bar and the sometimes uncomfortably mobbed **Säulenhalle** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 278 10 02; ☎ lounge bar from 5pm Tue-Sat, club from 11pm Thu-Sat).

Café Sprüngli (Map p202; ☎ 044 224 47 11; www.spruengli.ch; Bahnhofstrasse 21; ☎ 7am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 5.30pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun) The mother of all chocolate shops. This roomy, buzzing main branch of the well-known chain also delivers chocolate worldwide.

ENTERTAINMENT

Züritipp is the city's events magazine, available around town and from the tourist office. Also look for the quarterly *Zürich Guide*. Tickets for events are available from the **Billettzentrale** (Map p202; ☎ 044 221 22 83; Bahnhofstrasse 9; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat, closed Jul & Aug) or individual venues.

Nightclubs

Generally dress well and expect to pay Sfr15 to Sfr30 admission. See the boxed text Zürich's Trendquartier, above, for other tips.

Supermarket (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 440 20 05; www.supermarket.li; Geroldstrasse 17; ☎ from 11pm Thu-Sat) Zürich's number one club is smaller than the

name suggests, but boasts three cosy lounge bars around the dance floor, a covered back courtyard and an interesting roster of DJs playing house music. Watch out for 'Super-yellow' nights in particular.

Mascotte (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 260 15 80; www.mascotte.ch; Theatrestrasse 17; ☎ Thu-Sun) The old variety hall 'Corso' is now a popular club with huge windows facing Sechseläutenplatz and the lake. It's renowned for Tuesday's Karaoke from Hell, where punters sing punk or metal songs accompanied by a live band.

Toni Molkerei (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 273 23 60; Förlibückstrasse 109; ☎ from 10pm Wed-Sat) Based in a former dairy, this huge 20-something hang-out is notable for the long rows of lounge chairs in its red-lit annexe, where vegetarian nibbles from Tibits/Hiltl are served.

Club Q (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 444 40 50; www.club-q.ch; Förlibückstrasse 151; ☎ from 11pm Thu-Sun) In a car park, this club is for those who take their dancing – to house, hip-hop and R&B – more seriously than seeing and being seen.

Labor Bar (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 272 44 02; www.laborbar.ch; Schiffbaustrasse 3; ☎ from 10pm Fri & Sat, from 9pm Sun) The set for local celebrity Kurt Aeschbacher's TV show, this is the epitome of retro chic, with lots of Plexiglas and diffuse coloured light. Always filled with beautiful people, Friday is Celebtreighties and Sunday 'for gays and friends'.

Indochine (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 448 11 11; www.club-indochine.ch; Limmattstrasse 275; ☎ from 10pm Thu-Sat) Models and rich kids mingle between the dimly-lit fat Buddha of this faux opium den. It's Zürich's equivalent to London's Chinawhite or Paris's Buddha Bar.

Kaufleuten (Map p202; ☎ 044 225 33 22; www.kaufleuten.com; Pelikanstrasse 18; ☎ from 11pm) An opulent Art Deco theatre with a stage, mezzanine floor and bars arranged around the dance floor, Zürich's ritziest and most 'establishment' club plays house, hip-hop and Latin rhythms to a slightly older crowd (ie to, say, 45).

Cultural Centres

Rote Fabrik (for music ☎ 044 481 91 21, for theatre 044 482 42 12; www.rotfabrik.ch; Seestrasse 395; ☎ Tue-Sun) This long-standing counter-cultural institution has gone more mainstream in recent years, but still stages rock concerts, original-language films, theatre and dance performances. There's also a bar and restaurant. Take bus No 161 or 165 from Bürkliplatz.

Kanzlei (Map pp196-7; Kanzeistrasse 56; www.kanzlei.ch) Kanzlei is similar to Rote Fabrik.

Xenix Filmclub (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 242 04 11) A cinema sitting alongside a bar and disco (mostly funk, house, techno).

Gay & Lesbian Venues

Zürich has a lively gay scene, encompassing the previously mentioned Café Odeon (p205). Other dedicated venues include the bar **Barfüsser** (Map p202; Spitalgasse 14; ☎ daily) and **Labyrinth Club** (Map pp196-7; Pfingstweidstrasse 70; ☎ Fri & Sat), the Zürich scene's top club.

Live Music

Tonhalle (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 206 34 34; Claridenstrasse 7; tickets Sfr10-125) An opulent venue used by Zürich's orchestra and chamber orchestra, Tonhalle is patronised by the city's elite.

Opera House (Opernhaus; Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 268 66 66; Falkenstrasse 1) This also enjoys a world-wide reputation.

Sport

The local football team Grasshoppers plays at **Hardturm Stadium** (Förlibückstrasse). Catch tram No 4 to Sportplatz Hardturm to get there. However, **Letzigrund Stadium** (nr Herden & Baslerstrasse) is being refurbished as the venue for the Euro 2008 competition. Bus No 31 to Letzigrund will get you here.

SHOPPING

Neumarkt 17 (Map p202; Neumarkt 17) Selling cutting-edge furniture and homewares, this store is just as famous for its own interior – with ornamental wrought iron hanging over a concrete 'chute' sitting above a reflective water pool.

Fidelio (Map p202; Münzplatz 1) One of the city's best clothes boutiques, Fidelio sells a wide range of men's and women's wear, from designer labels to street fashions.

Heimatwerk (Map p202; Rudolf Brun Brücke) Good-quality, if touristy, souvenirs are found here, including fondue pots, forks, toys and classy handbags. Other branches are in the train station and airport.

Jelmoli (Map p202; Seidengasse 1) The basement food hall is the highlight of this legendary department store.

The leading markets include the flea markets at **Bürkliplatz** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 8am-4pm Sat May-Oct) and **Rosenhof** (Map p202; ☎ 10am-9pm Thu, 10am-4pm Sat Mar-Dec), but the tourist office has details of more options.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Zürich airport (☎ 043 816 22 11; www.zurich-airport.com) is a small international hub about 9km north of the centre, with flights to most European capitals and to some in Africa, Asia and North America.

Car & Motorcycle

The N3 approaches Zürich from the south along the shore of Lake Zürich. The N1 is the fastest route from Bern and Basel and the main entry point from the west. The N1 also services routes to the north and east of Zürich.

HIRE

Europcar (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 271 56 56; Josefstrasse 53), **Hertz** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 242 84 84; Morgartenstrasse 5) and **Avis** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 044 296 87 87; Gartenhofstrasse 17) have airport branches. See p329 for rates.

Train

The busy Hauptbahnhof has direct trains to Stuttgart (Sfr95), Munich (Sfr90), Innsbruck (Sfr71) and Milan (Sfr75) and many other international destinations. There are also hourly departures to most major Swiss towns, such as Lucerne (Sfr22, 50 minutes), Bern (Sfr45, one hour) and Basel (Sfr30, 65 minutes).

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

You're unlikely to need a taxi (around Sfr55). Up to eight trains an hour go to/from the Hauptbahnhof between around 6am and midnight, and the journey takes 12 minutes. (The so-called airport hotels, connected by road, take longer to reach!)

Bicycle

City bikes (www.zuerirollt.ch) may be borrowed or rented from various locations, including **Velo-gate** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 7.30am-9.30pm year-round), near platform 18 at the Hauptbahnhof; outside the department store **Globus** (Map p202; Usterstrasse; ☎ 7.30am-9.30pm May-Oct); and outside the **Opera House** (Map pp196-7; ☎ 7.30am-9.30pm May-Oct). A passport or identity card and Sfr20 must be left as a deposit. Rental is free if you bring the bike back after six hours for a pit-stop; otherwise it costs Sfr5 a day.

Boat

See the boxed text Waterfront Zürich, p198.

Car & Motorcycle

Parking is tricky and costly. The two most useful **car-parking garages** (www.parkhaeuser.ch; about Sfr32 a day) are opposite the main post office and on Uraniastrasse, next to the e-café. Otherwise street meters usually have a one-hour (Sfr2) or two-hour (Sfr5) maximum.

Public Transport

There's a unified system (www.zvv.ch) of buses, S-bahn suburban trains and, most importantly, trams. Services run from 5.30am to midnight, and tickets must be bought in advance. Every stop has a dispenser. Either type in the four-figure code for your destination or choose: a short single-trip **Kurzstrecke** ticket, valid for five stops (Sfr2.10; yellow button on dispenser); a single ticket for greater Zürich, valid for an hour (Sfr3.60; blue button); or a 24-hour city pass for the centre,

Zone 10 (Sfr7.20; green button). Tickets from dispensers don't need to be validated before travel; all others, such as the Zürichcard, must be stamped in the yellow 'Entwerfers' on the platforms. It's a Sfr80 fine if you're caught fare-evading.

A one-day pass for the whole canton costs Sfr30. Zürich's S-Bahn trains reach Baden, Schaffhausen, Stein am Rhein, Zug and Einsiedeln, but these are beyond the reach of the cantonal ticket.

Weekend night buses (around Sfr5, passes not valid) depart from Bellevue at 1am, 2am and 3am for suburban destinations.

Taxi

Taxis are expensive and usually unnecessary. It's not usual to hail them on the street; pick them up at the Hauptbahnhof or other ranks. Alternatively, call ☎ 044 444 44 44.

AROUND ZÜRICH

UETLIBERG

elevation 813m

One of the best half-day trips from Zürich starts off by taking the train (line S10) to Uetliberg at 813m (23 minutes, departures every 30 minutes). From here, you can take a panoramic two-hour **Planetenweg** (Planetary Path) running along the mountain ridge overlooking the lake to Felsenegg. En route you pass models of the planets in the solar system: all on a scale of one to 1000 million. At Felsenegg, a cable car descends every 10 minutes to Adliswil, from where frequent trains return to Zürich (line S4, 16 minutes). The day pass to buy is the Sfr14.40 **Albis-Netzkarte**, which gets you to Uetliberg and back, with unlimited travel downtown.

RAPPERSWIL

pop 7365 / elevation 405m

A pleasant excursion, especially for families, is to Rapperswil. It has a small, quaint old town and a well-known children's zoo. The **tourist office** (☎ 0848 811 500; www.zuerich.see.ch; Fischermarktplatz 1; ☎ 10am-5pm daily Apr-Oct, 1-5pm Nov-Mar) is by the lake, diagonally left (northwest) from the train station. In the same building, entered via the office, is a **Circus Museum** (adult/child Sfr4/2) detailing the history of Rapperswil's famous Knie family

circus. (The circus itself is usually away on tour between March and November.)

Heading directly north of the train station, you come to the heart of the old town, with a 13th-century castle above it. Climb the hill for great views or to visit the small **Polish Museum** (☎ 055 210 18 62; www.museum-polskie.org; adult/child Sfr4/2; ☎ 1-5pm daily Apr-Oct, 1-5pm Sat & Sun Nov, Dec & Mar, closed Jan & Feb). The castle is also a popular wedding spot.

Knies Kinderzoo (☎ 055 220 67 60; www.knieskinderzoo.ch; Oberseestrasse; adult/child Sfr10/4.50; ☎ 9am-6pm mid-Mar-Oct) lies in the opposite direction, southeast of the station (signposted). Ponies, elephants and camels can be ridden, performing sea lions can be applauded and a whole host of creatures, from giraffes and apes to kangaroos and tortoises, can be admired and learnt about.

Staying overnight, **Jakob** (☎ 055 220 00 50; www.jakob-hotel.ch Hauptplatz 11; s/d/tr/ff Sfr105/170/210/240; ☎) is the best midrange choice, with chic rooms in neutral tones. There's also a family-oriented **SYHA hostel** (☎ 055 210 99 27; www.youthhostel.ch; Hessenhofweg 10; dm/s/d Sfr28/50/78; ☎ closed Nov-Jan) near the lake in the suburb of Jona (catch the 'Südquartier' bus to Busskirch and then it's a 10-minute walk). Restaurants line Rapperswil's Fischmarkt-platz, near the tourist office, and Hauptplatz, near Jakob.

Rapperswil can be reached by S5 or S7 from Zürich's main train station (one hour) or boat from Bürkliplatz (two hours). The most cost-effective ticket for a day-trip is the 9-Uhr Tagespass (9 O'Clock Daypass; Sfr22), which is valid after 9am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday; otherwise the fare is Sfr15 each way.

WINTERTHUR

pop 89,612 / elevation 447m

If ever there was a Swiss town to demonstrate the symbiosis between the financial services sector and art (ie millionaires' fondness for making tax-friendly investments in paintings and sculptures), leafy Winterthur is it. It gave its name to one of Europe's leading insurance companies, but is principally known for its amazing number of high-quality museums and galleries.

Information

Discount Card A museums pass costs Sfr16/25/28 for one/two/three days.

Post office (☎ 0848 888 888; Bahnhofplatz 8; ☎ 7.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 8pm Thu, 8am-5pm Sat)
Tourist office (☎ 052 267 67 00; www.winterthur-tourismus.ch; near platform 1, Hauptbahnhof; ☎ 8.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-4pm Sat)

Sights & Activities

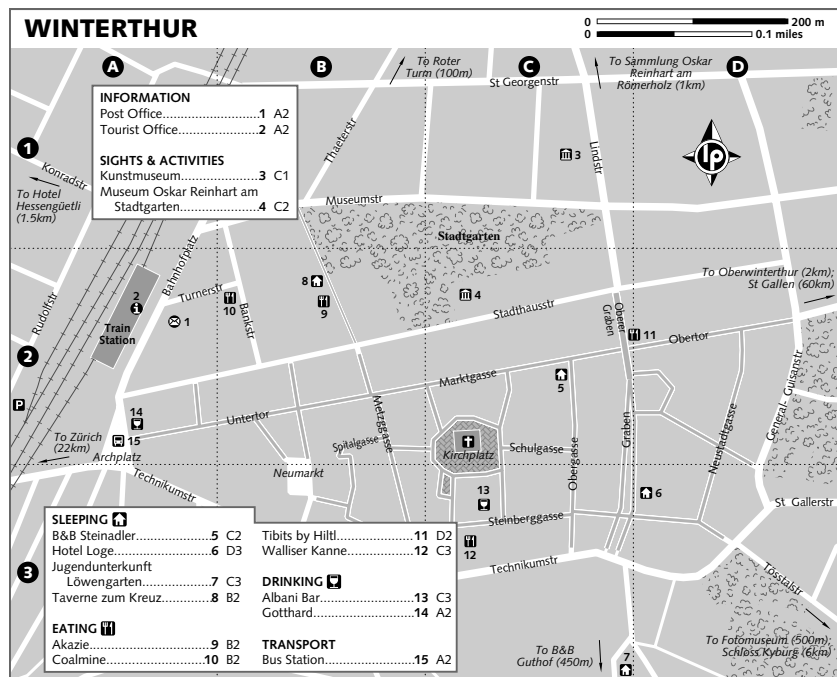
Winterthur owes much of its eminence as an art mecca to collector Oskar Reinhart, a scion of a powerful banking and insurance family. His entire collection was bequeathed to the nation and entrusted to his hometown when he died in 1965. The **Sammlung Oskar Reinhart am Römerholz** (☎ 052 269 27 40; www.roemerholz.ch; Haldenstrasse 95; adult/student Sfr10/7; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun, to 8pm Wed) is particularly fascinating in the way it seeks to bridge the gap between traditional and modern art, juxtaposing the likes of Cézanne, Goya, Rembrandt and Rubens with Monet, Picasso, Renoir and Van Gogh. Take bus No 3 to Spital or get the Museums-Bus shuttle.

Reinhart's 500-strong collection of Swiss, German and Austrian artworks is on show at the **Museum Oskar Reinhart am Stadtgarten** (www.museumoskarreinhart.ch; Stadthausstrasse; adult/student Sfr8/6; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun), on the edges of the city park. A combined ticket for both museums is Sfr12/8).

Winterthur's outstanding **Fotomuseum** (Photo Museum; ☎ 052 234 10 34; Grüzenstrasse 44; admission varies; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun, to 8pm Wed) is another highlight among the city's total of 17, as is the **Kunstmuseum** (☎ 052 267 51 62; www.kwm.ch; adult/concession Sfr10/7; ☎ 10am-8pm Tue, 10am-5pm Wed-Sun), with its collection of 19th- and 20th-century art. See the tourist office for more details.

A Museums-Bus shuttle (Sfr5) leaves from the train station hourly between 9.45am and 4.45pm for the Sammlung Oskar Reinhart am Römerholz, Museum Oskar Reinhart am Stadtgarten and Kunstmuseum. On Sunday, the Fotomuseum is included in the circuit.

Just outside the city, there's an excellent exhibition at **Schloss Kyburg** (☎ 052 232 46 64; www.schlosskyburg.ch; adult/concession Sfr8/6; ☎ 10.30am-4.30pm Tue-Sun, to 5.30pm May-Oct, closed Dec & Jan). Mixing the ancient castle buildings with interactive technology, it's perfect for children. Take the S-bahn to Effretikon, then the bus to Kyburg. Ask the tourist office for the Kyburg leaflet, listing the times of the S-bahn train and bus connections. The journey takes 30 minutes each way.



Sleeping

Most people will view Winterthur as a day trip from Zürich, but lower accommodation costs also make it a good base while visiting the larger city.

Jugendunterkunft Löwengarten (☎ 052 267 48 48; jugendunterkunft@win.ch; Wildbachstrasse 18; dm/s/d Sfr30/40/80, breakfast Sfr10 extra; ☎ reception 7-10.30am & 4-9.30pm, ☎ hostel closed Oct-Mar) Relatively quiet, fairly old hostel, with a kitchen and entertainment room upstairs, and a restaurant below.

Hotel Hessengüetli (☎ 052 224 32 32; www.hessengueetli.ch; Oberfeldstrasse 10; s Sfr95-110, d Sfr140-150; 📍) Rooms here are modern and cheerful, if generic. In a quiet location a 10-minute bus ride from town, there's a Chinese restaurant attached. Take bus No 2 to Feldtal.

Taverne zum Kreuz (☎ 052 269 07 20; fax 052 260 07 39; Stadthausstrasse 10b/lm Stadtpark; s/d Sfr140/180) A charmingly lopsided half-timbered tavern from the 18th century, this has cosy rooms full of character.

Hotel Loge (☎ 052 268 12 00; www.hotelloge.ch; Graben 6; s/d Sfr160/200) Its strong business community means there are more expensive ho-

tels in Winterthur, but with its own bar, restaurant and even cinema, this designer place provides all the comfort and style you will ever need.

Also recommended:

B&B Guthof (☎ 052 233 52 43; www.bandb-guthof.ch; Guthof 3; s Sfr70-120, d Sfr110-160; 📍 📍) Light, airy individually decorated rooms and a garden.

B&B Steinadler (☎ 052 212 53 25; www.steinadler.ch; Marktgasse 9, entrance via Obergasse; s/d 110/150; ☎) Pension under the roof of historic central building.

Eating

There's a cluster of bars and cheap restaurants along Neumarkt, offering a wide array of different ethnic cuisines.

Tibits by Hiltl (Oberer Graben 48; meals per 100g Sfr3.70; ☎ 6.30am-midnight daily, from 8am Sat & 9am Sun) The local branch of the Zürich buffet-style vegetarian café.

Coalmine (☎ 052 268 68 82; Turnerstrasse 1; most mains Sfr8-15; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat) This cultural centre in the former coal cellar of the 'Folk Art' house is one of the places to be. As well as hosting gigs, author readings and art exhibitions, it has a bar and restaurant

serving breakfast and lunch (and light eats at other times). Check out the floor-to-ceiling bookshelves.

Akazie (☎ 052 212 17 17; Stadthausstrasse 10; mains Sfr25-38, menus Sfr20-28; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Sat) This restaurant serves nouvelle Mediterranean cuisine that come in old-fashioned portions.

Walliser Kanne (☎ 052 212 81 71; Steinberggasse 25; mains Sfr23-42; ☎ lunch Mon, lunch & dinner Tue-Fri, dinner Sat) Try this rustic place for traditional Swiss specialities.

Drinking

Gotthard (☎ 052 212 09 05; Untertor) Winterthur's student population keeps the many bars humming all hours. Indeed, Gotthard literally keeps the taps flowing 24/7.

Albani Bar (☎ 052 212 69 96; Steinberggasse 16) The lounge lizard in you might also

enjoy the dimly lit Albani, which has live music.

Roter Turm (23rd fl, Swisscom Tower, Theaterstrasse 17; ☎ from 5pm Tue-Sat) You wouldn't want to spend all night in this fashionable but tiny space, but raise a glass to the view.

Getting There & Around

Four to five trains an hour run to Zürich airport (Sfr7.70, 15 minutes) and central Zürich (Sfr11.20). Many trains also go to Schaffhausen and Lake Constance (Bodensee). By road, the N1 (E60) motorway goes from Zürich, skirts Winterthur and continues to St Gallen and Austria. Main roads also lead to Constance (Konstanz) and Schaffhausen.

As local bus tickets to Oberwinterthur cost Sfr3.60, it's better to get a 24-hour pass for Sfr7.20 instead.

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