



# Switzerland News.

## Spring & Summer News.

### Hike Back to Nature.

This summer, Switzerland Tourism stays on the [“Back to Nature”](#) path. Speaking of paths: Thanks to over 40,400 miles / 65,000 kilometers of waymarked trails, virtually every corner of Switzerland is waiting to be discovered on foot. The [hiking paths](#) are well marked and as varied as the landscapes they lead through. Ascend a peak, hike through alpine meadows, explore a forest? You decide!

### Hike Iconic Trails in Switzerland.

With 44,000 miles / 65,000km of marked hiking trails to choose from, hikes are really spoilt for choice in Switzerland. But there are three long-distance routes that belong on everyone's to-hike list: 1. The classic [Via Alpina](#) with its 14 Alpine passes and a stamp booklet, where stamps for each stage can be collected. 2. The gentle [Jura Crest Trail](#), Switzerland's oldest trail that is perfect for easy-going hikers. 3. The wild [Alpine Passes Trail](#) which challenges with adventurous trails and rewards with breathtaking views.

### New Alpine Cheese Trail in Engelberg.

[Engelberg](#), one hour from Lucerne, is a high valley rich in history with many Alpine dairies. On the new [Alpine Cheese Trail](#) cheese lovers can discover and taste various cheeses and meet the cheesemakers in person. The main route is 25 mi / 40 km long, which you can do on foot or by bike. Should you hike, the trail can be easily divided into two or three stages thanks to the Alpine restaurants which offer overnight stays.

### Try Local Specialties on Mount Rigi.

On June 16, the queen of the mountains, Mount Rigi is the place to go for culinary delicacies. The first [“Rigi Food Festival”](#) will offer anything the culinary heart desires – from the finest food to Slow Food specialties. Restaurant owners, producers and traders come together on the Rigi between 10am and 4pm to treat visitors to the authentic specialties, produced with local ingredients and lots of love.

### Celebrate Winegrowers in Vevey.

Do you want to experience a once-in-a-generation event that's unique worldwide? Visit the [Fête des Vignerons](#) from July 18 to August 11. The festival in Vevey, which only happens once a generation, was added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in December 2016. The Vevey market square, transformed into a 20,000-seat arena, is the heart of the festival. Around 5,000 actors participate in the play on its stage, with the aim of gathering about 20,000 spectators for each show. The town around the arena will become a hive of activity and celebration (the “Ville



en Fête”). As of May 20, the Terrasses de la Confrérie, a lakeside platform next to the arena, showcases Swiss wines and local products. As of July 18, pop-up events, stands, wine cellars and restaurants open to the public for three weeks. You have to buy the tickets for the show in advance, but the entrance to the “Ville en Fête” is free and open to everybody.

### **See the World’s Largest Wine Competition!**

From May 1 to 5, the [Concours Mondial de Bruxelles](#) (CMB) takes place in Switzerland for the time in Aigle, in the Canton of Vaud. With more than 330 tasters from around the world and more than 9,000 international wines competing, the CMB has established itself as one of the world's largest wine tasting competitions. By hosting this event in Aigle, the organizers want to emphasize the importance of the local winegrowers, hoteliers and restaurateurs and also highlight the high quality of the wines produced in the region.

### **Learn True Stories in Bern.**

From August 30 to September 1, international reporters gather for the presentation of the [True Story Award](#) in Bern. During this three-day festival, they talk about their work and share their experiences at public events. The reporters will also describe and discuss obstacles and resistance they have encountered, tell personal stories and offer the audience a new perspective on contemporary events.

### **Ride the Glacier Express the Excellent Way!**

On March 2, the [Glacier Express](#) launched its Excellence Class, its new premium railcar class. It offers comfortable lounge seating with a total of 20 seats and stunning views from its panorama windows. Every guest is guaranteed a window seat. The surcharge includes services such as a personal travel guide, wide array of food and tablets for on-board entertainment.

### **Chase Cancellara from Zermatt to Zurich.**

The [Chasing Cancellara](#) just got a new leg: a race from Zurich to Zermatt. The one-day race takes place on September 19. It is part of the international race series which was launched by Olympic Champion Fabian Cancellara for all cycling enthusiasts. No matter whether you are a beginner or a semi-pro, the race will undoubtedly be a truly special challenge if you compete. Will you manage to outpace the champion or beat his time?

### **Zurich launched E-Bike City Tour.**

Do you want to see as many different sides of Zurich as possible? How about trying the [new guided e-bike tour](#). The stylish EGO Movement e-bikes are the perfect way to explore urban Zurich, as you can get to the Rigiblick funicular, where glorious views of Zurich wait for you, without breaking into a sweat. From there it’s downhill all the way through beautiful residential areas towards Lake Zurich. Bike along the magnificent shores all the way to Hafen Enge landing stage, before returning through the Kasernenareal to the starting point at the Europaallee shopping center.



## Anniversaries.

### Happy Birthday, Charlie Chaplin!

130 years ago, on April 16, 1889 Charlie Spencer Chaplin – a.k.a. Charlie Chaplin – was born. To celebrate this jubilee, [Chaplin's World](#) by Grévin in Corsier-sur-Vevey is planning a series of events throughout 2019. It started with the photo exhibition “Chaplin Personal” (1952–1973). In spring, there will be an old-fashioned circus in the Manoir de Ban park. In fall, a new wax Tramp with his famous suit and cane will arrive at the museum and an exclusive film on the life and career of Chaplin will be shown. Last but not least, there will be an enchanting Christmas at the Manoir de Ban in winter.

### A Toast to Engadin's Mineral Water.

In the [region around Scuol](#), 30 minutes from St. Moritz, you find more than 20 mineral springs, which were mentioned in historic documents for the first time in 1369. 150 years ago, cure and spa tourism began to blossom. To this day, mineral water can be sampled at various village fountains and sometimes at the source itself. This abundance of water was first mentioned 650 years ago, an anniversary that will be celebrated with various events throughout 2019, including six fountain festivals.

### Happy Birthday, Liechtenstein!

In 2019 Liechtenstein celebrates its [300<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) throughout the year with a range of events – and warmly invites visitors to discover and explore its history and stunning natural scenery in person. “With our experiences of the past, we are setting out on the path to the future” – this is the central idea at the heart of the celebration in the Principality of Liechtenstein. This concept is symbolized by the [Liechtenstein Trail](#), a route that connects all of Liechtenstein's municipalities. The whole country and visitors from abroad are invited to take this journey through Liechtenstein. The Liechtenstein Trail, along with the L!story app, has its grand opening on May 26 as History 3.0.

## Hotel News.

### A New 5-star Hotel for Basel.

As of 2019, the new [Mövenpick Hotels](#) & Resorts in Basel welcomes business as well as leisure guests. The nineteen-story hotel, conveniently located a stone's throw away from the train station, was designed by the renowned Basel-based firm of architects Miller & Maranta. Once it opens, it offers a total of 264 rooms and suites, stylishly furnished with timeless design classics by interior designer Matteo Thun.



### **Moxy comes to Switzerland.**

[Moxy](#) hotels are making their debut in Switzerland: In autumn 2019, the first lifestyle hotel opens in the Flon district of Lausanne. It will offer 110 rooms over more than 37,000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 3,500 m<sup>2</sup> and will be located on Rue de la Vigie in Lausanne, in the heart of the Flon district. Besides the location in Lausanne, Moxy will open a hotel in Bern. The hotel in Bern will have 130 rooms and 62 micro apartments. [Moxy](#) is a young brand of Marriott and focuses on travelers who appreciate a mix of lively design, comfortable atmosphere as well as good value for money.

### **Radisson Blu to Open in Andermatt.**

In December 2018, the [Radisson Blu Hotel & Gotthard Residences](#) finally opened. The 4-star hotel is separate to the residences and includes 180 rooms and suites, two restaurants and an inviting hotel bar with an open fireplace. It also features a fitness and wellness center with sauna, vapor bath, therapy rooms and a 25-meter indoor pool.

### **Discover the The Hide Hotel Flims.**

In December 2018, the [Hide Hotel Flims](#) opened. This new 47-room hotel, 30 minutes from Chur, is perfect for those who want to explore the mountain world. It allows guests to explore nature in its purest form and come back to a cozy place to relax. The hotel features a deli, a restaurant, a spa, an outdoor terrace with views on the slopes and a full-fledged kids center.

### **22 Summits in Zermatt Open for Business.**

In December 2018, the Boutique Hotel [22 Summits](#) opened for business. The four-star hotel with 22 rooms has a two-story spa area with an outdoor whirlpool, a trendy bar and a lounge on the ground floor. Its motto: alpine chic meets modern. The Matterhorn Glacier Paradise valley station is only a three-minute walk away.

### **Eden au Lac in New Design.**

Hotel [Eden au Lac](#) in Zurich, designed by Philippe Starck, is set to open in summer 2019. The fully restyled hotel offers a unique, chic and modern interpretation of a luxury hotel. With trendy gastronomy concepts, lifestyle ambience and cosmopolitan character, this hotel is the place for connoisseurs.

### **First Swiss a-ja City Resort Opened.**

The [first a-ja City Resort](#) (German only) opened in November 2018 in Zurich Altstetten. The resort occupies the first five floors of one of the three elegant towers located at the Vulcano site near Altstetten railway station. It offers 319 rooms, a deli restaurant and bar as well as a spa area with sauna and fitness. The a-ja City Resort is one of the largest new hotels in Zurich.



## Museum & Art News.

### **New Arts District to Open in Lausanne.**

The opening of the Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts (mcb-a) in Lausanne in October 2019 officially launches [PLATEFORME 10](#), the new “arts district” next to the station. PLATEFORME 10 will combine the mcb-a, Musée de l’Elysée (photography) and mudac (design and applied arts) museums, complemented by the Toms Pauli and Félix Vallotton foundations. Lausanne’s new cultural center will be a lively space open to all. The layout and atmosphere of the premises will highlight the cultural character of the neighborhood, with a variety of shops and dining areas.

### **See the Miracle of Transmission in St. Gallen.**

The exhibition [The miracle of transmission – The Plan of St Gall and Early Medieval Europe](#) focuses on the unique abundance of early medieval documents in St. Gallen. Of particular interest are the legal documents preserved in the St. Gallen Abbey Archive. In a separate room the famous St. Gallen Abbey Plan is given pride of place. The original monastery plan from the 9<sup>th</sup> century is the earliest preserved visualization of a monastic compound produced in the Middle Ages. It is estimated to have been created between 819 and 826 in the monastery of Reichenau on Lake Constance and is in the possession of the Abbey Library of St. Gall. It will be on display for the first time in the new exhibition room of the Convent of St. Gallen as of April 13.

### **Multifarious Museum Opened in Swiss Alps.**

In January, polish art collector and entrepreneur Grażyna Kulczyk, an ARTnews Top 200 collector, opened a contemporary art museum and research institute in a former brewery in the remote town of Susch, in the eastern Swiss Alps, near Davos and St. Moritz. The [Muzeum Susch](#), as it is called, has over 16,000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> of gallery space, and opened with an exhibition organized by Kasia Redzisz, a senior curator at Tate Liverpool, presenting work by 30 international artists that question traditional ideals of the feminine and the body.

### **Listen to the Sound of Silence.**

Until July 7 [Museum of Communication](#) in Bern is dedicating its next major exhibition to silence. Although more and more people are looking for peace in the hectic of everyday life, our relationship with silence is an ambivalent one: the idea of complete silence is pleasing and at the same time alarming. It is time to take a closer look at this ambivalence with a bold and innovative exhibition that allows visitors to experience its variety: a three-dimensional listening landscape invites visitors to discover more. An exhibition that will shed light on the social and historical balance between noise, quiet and silence.

### **Unique Picasso Exhibition in Basel.**

In its most ambitious exhibition ever staged, the [Fondation Beyeler](#) is paying tribute to the paintings and sculptures of the young Pablo Picasso from the Blue and Rose Periods between 1901 and 1906. Until May 26, masterpieces of these significant years are being presented together for the



first time in Europe. Picasso's pictures from this phase of creative ferment are some of the finest and most emotionally compelling examples of modern painting. It is unlikely that they will be seen again in such a selection in a single place.

## Future News

### **Lindt's Home of Chocolate Welcomes Visitors as of 2020.**

In 2020, just in time for its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, [Lindt](#) opens its "Home of Chocolate", which marks a major milestone in the Swiss chocolate history. This new visitor center on the factory premises in Kilchberg, 10 minutes from Zurich's city center, will boost a multi-media and interactive exhibition, a research facility and show production. Furthermore, the world's largest Lindt chocolate shop, a Lindt café and a Lindt Chocolateria for chocolate courses. A special highlight is the world's largest chocolate fountain in the entrance area, which will be 24 feet / 8 meters high.

### **The Circle in Zurich to Open 2020.**

[The Circle](#), Switzerland's biggest commercial development to date, is taking shape within walking distance of Zurich Airport and a 12-minute train ride to the city. When it opens in 2020, the lifestyle and business center will help change the landscape of Zurich and may serve as a model for other international airports in search of new business models. The city within a city encompasses a convention center, hotels, restaurants, high-end retail, a health care facility, green spaces, art places, and co-working areas and offices. The Hotels & Convention module lends a huge addition to Zurich's meetings and events offering, due to its size and easy airport access. A Hyatt Regency and a Hyatt Place will serve The Circle Convention Centre Zurich Airport, which has a capacity of 2,500. Total cost: CHF 1 billion (USD 1 billion / CAD 1.34 billion).

### **Road Cycling World Championships 2020 to be Held in Valais.**

In 2020, [UCI Road World Championships](#) will be held in Aigle-Martigny in the Canton of Valais. From September 20 to 27 different races on flat valley roads, through vineyards and mountains will challenge the cyclists in different categories and disciplines. The road races will have their finish with multiple loops around Martigny including the ascent of the Col de la Forclaz, a climb of 2,3 miles / 3,8 kilometers and 1,558 feet / 475 meters of elevation. The Col de la Forclaz has been included in the Tour de France several times, the last time in 2016.

### **Cable Car to Connect Switzerland and Italy as of 2021.**

A one-hour cable-car ride between ski stations in Switzerland and Italy has been given the green light. The highest crossing in the Alps is set to open in 2021. Construction on the [Alpine Crossing](#) project between the resorts of Zermatt and Cervinia can begin after the Swiss Foundation for Landscape Protection and Zermatt Mountain Railways signed an agreement in early March in which, they said, "took due account of the interests of both sides".



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