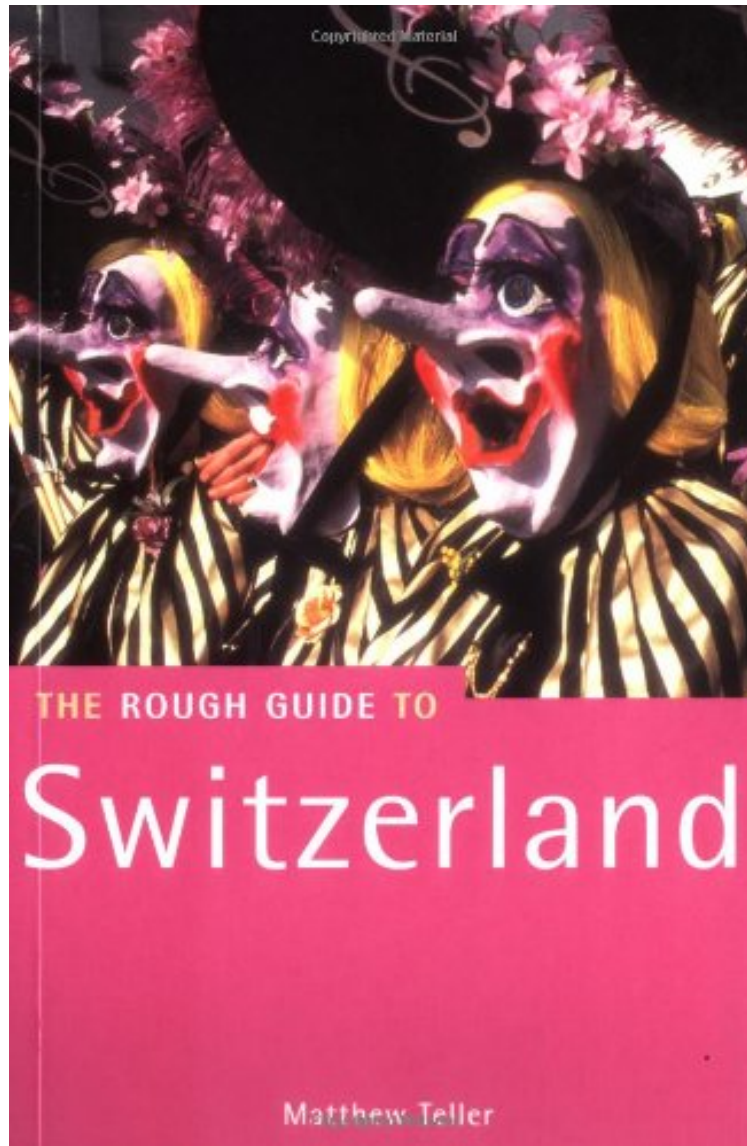


[Free] The Rough Guide to Switzerland, 1st Edition (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

## The Rough Guide to Switzerland, 1st Edition (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

*Matthew Teller*

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**Matthew Teller : The Rough Guide to Switzerland, 1st Edition (Rough Guide Travel Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Switzerland, 1st Edition (Rough Guide Travel Guides):

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. If you can only get one guide on CH - this is it By Chia-heng

YaoDoing my due diligence on this year's trip to Switzerland, I checked all the relevant guidebooks in local bookstores. Finally settled on this book over the similar Lonely Planet one. This one wins out for all the bonus info it manages to squeeze into its numerous sidebars. I am especially impressed by its mini-history of counterculture in Bern and Zurich - throws a monkey wrench into the usual Swiss stereotypes. It labors to do justice to the many less-well-known charms of Switzerland, and to a large degree seems to succeed (e.g. a full section on CERN - birthplace of the web), while still remaining compact and useful (as opposed to Michelin). However, there are still a few shortcomings: \* No coverage of the major scenic trains of the Swiss Railway (Golden Pass, Glacier Express, William Tell Express, etc.) A major omission, since they are well-known, excellent experience in themselves, and make for a great backbone to hang your entire visit. \* More generally, not enough help for new visitors to pick and choose all these sights and put together a sensible itinerary, e.g. scenic routes, top-10 experiences, and sample 7-day or 14-day itineraries (although very few guidebooks do this). In particular, the book should help me take advantage of the best rail system in the world to maximize my stay. Swiss Rail deserves a section all its own. \* Not enough web addresses are supplied for hotels, attractions etc. where usually only phone #s are given. URLs are much more useful than phone #s for trip-planning (esp. hotels). \* A general problem for Swiss guidebooks, but still annoying: On Lake Lemman and Maggiore, coverage stops at the border, as if the other French and Italian halves don't exist. C'mon - borders are for politicians. When I am at Lake Maggiore, I want to know what's there around the \_whole\_ lake, and how to enjoy them all. Just give me the info and I'll deal with the technicalities. In the case of Lake Lemman, the French side on the south may well be on another planet - cuz it's too small for the French guides to cover! \* In Jungfrau region, it overlooks the small town of Gimmelwald - currently the exclusive scoop of the Rick Steves book. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A thorough guide to Switzerland By P. Gollner The Rough Guide To Switzerland stands out because of its thoroughness: it goes well beyond the usual travel-book sketches to include specific information on transportation, accommodation, dining and local customs. Unlike other guides, it has extremely useful information on local regulations, for which Switzerland is sadly famous. For example, it notes that "parking in Switzerland is hellish," and goes on to describe in detail the parking regulations in Zurich and Geneva (which almost require you to have a law degree to understand). Note, however, that some of the information is outdated, and you should check in advance with the local tourist office because some rules have changed since the book's publication. The Rough Guide also gives excellent travel tips. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. From the author By JJ Thanks for the great review, Milesyao! (see below for what s/he says). To answer your criticisms: \* Major scenic train routes are covered on p.38. \* Picking choosing sights; see 2nd edition update, due for publication next year, which will have more on this. \* Web addresses, ditto. \* Cross-border coverage, ditto again. \* For details of Gimmelwald, see p.271 (top and bottom of the page). Hope this helps! Matthew Teller Author, Rough Guide to Switzerland

Including complete coverage of all regions, including Lichtenstein, this guide to Switzerland presents unbiased reviews of accommodation, restaurants and nightlife across all budgets, as well as lively account of Switzerland's world-class museums and galleries.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Where to go – and when Although Switzerland is best known for its mountain scenery, there are any number of hooks on which to hang a visit, whether you choose to stay in one city or resort, take in the hiking or cycling possibilities of a single region, or make a tour of exploration around the whole country. In the space of a short holiday and without moving far from a central base, you could easily take in a dizzying diversity of landscapes and cultures. Getting about is easy, with an unrivalled network of trains, buses and boats cutting journey times between the regions to an hour or two in most cases. You'll find places to stay and get a hearty meal wherever you end up, even in the wildest of mountain valleys. English is widely spoken, and highly organized tourist offices mean that information is readily accessible wherever you go. Thankfully, Switzerland has no big metropolises on the scale of Paris or London. Swiss towns and cities were preserved from bombing in World War II, and all of them have at their core explorable networks of medieval alleys and old houses and churches. Geneva is positioned at the tip of the idyllic Lake Geneva in the southwest, a short distance from the graceful lakeside city of Lausanne. In the northeast, Zürich too is set on its own lake, within striking distance of the peaceful Bodensee (Lake Constance). The diminutive Swiss capital Bern has a UNESCO-protected Old Town of sandstone arcades and cobbled alleys, while equally attractive Luzern (Lucerne) lies in the centre of the country on its own, famously beautiful lake. Two much-overlooked urban centres are in the extreme north and south of the country respectively: Basel is located on the Rhine at the point where France, Germany and Switzerland meet, while sunny Lugano basks on the shores of an azure lake a few kilometres from the Italian border. Any of these – or smaller but no less characterful cantonal capitals such as St Gallen, Schaffhausen, Neuchâtel, Chur, Fribourg, Sion or Bellinzona – could serve as a base for a relaxing short break, especially during the temperate summer months (June–Sept). At other times they can get distinctly chilly, although most receive generous dumps of snow in the winter, which, combined with glittering sunshine and frozen lakes and rivers, paints the most romantic of urban pictures. Switzerland is ideal if you're looking to get out into nature, and whether it's for hiking, skiing or simply relaxation, there are almost limitless possibilities. The Alps run in

a band across the centre and south of the country, with resorts big and small along with stunning scenery guaranteed wherever you head for. The two main seasons run from late May to October, and from mid-December to mid-April; between these times, mountain resorts close down altogether. The best-known Alpine region is the Bernese Oberland, focused around the tourist hub of Interlaken and boasting such famous names as Wengen and Gstaad; just to the south, in Canton Valais, sit Verbier, Crans Montana and, at the foot of the shark's-tooth Matterhorn, Zermatt. Occupying the southeast of the country is Canton Graubünden, holding Davos, Klosters and – perhaps most famous of all – St Moritz. Justifiably popular, all these places boast some of the best skiing in Europe but can draw stifling crowds. Although it's relatively easy in even the busiest centres (which are still nothing like the mega-resorts of the French and Italian Alps) to head off the beaten path and explore alone, or to aim for smaller, more manageable satellite resorts in adjacent side valleys, you may prefer to shun the big names altogether and seek peace and quiet in the less frenetic hinterlands. Two regions stand out: in the northwest, the scrubby, windswept Jura mountains hugging the French border are an ideal landscape for long lonely walks and bike rides; while in the south, the wild valleys of Alto Ticino lace the southern foothills of the Alps with little-known hiking trails, a world away from the super-chic lakeside resort of Locarno nearby.