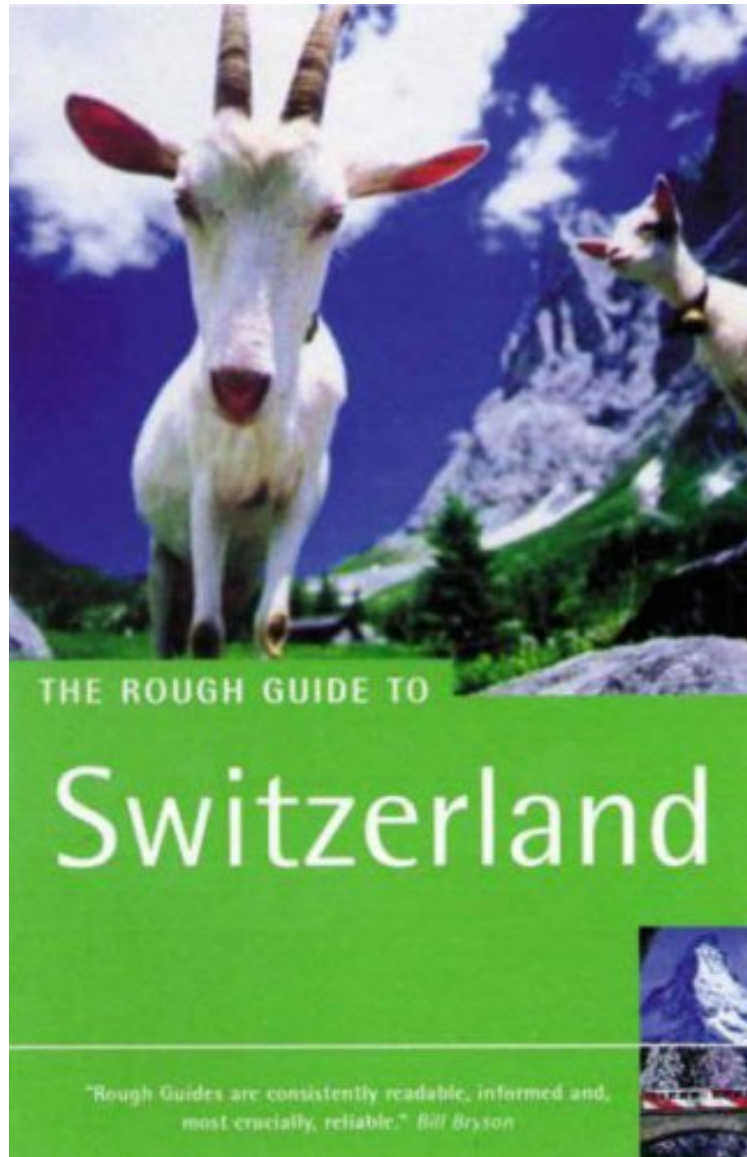


(Ebook pdf) The Rough Guide to Switzerland 2 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

## The Rough Guide to Switzerland 2 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

*Matthew Teller*

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**Matthew Teller : The Rough Guide to Switzerland 2 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Switzerland 2 (Rough Guide Travel Guides):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good, but not greatBy T. HooperThis guidebook covers Switzerland from a British point of view. The Rough Guide series is not known for it's in depth coverage. The entries in this guide

tend to be brief--only giving a mention and a list of business hours and transportation info. For those who are looking for more in depth coverage, this obituaries style of writing may leave you looking for something else. If you cut out the phone numbers, lists of business hours, and transportation information, then the page count would be cut in half. Also, for a book that spends so much time talking about transportation, it's a little frustrating that there aren't more maps to illustrate the directions. If you're looking for a comprehensive guidebook for Switzerland, I would get another guidebook.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive book By C. Sundry Areas of the country are easy to locate. Good regional maps. Some accommodations provided (nice to have moderate listings as opposed to many travel guides that list the high priced, luxury places) and eating places, but kept minimal so that the majority of the book focuses on things to see and do. Particularly like the "travel details" section at the end of each chapter that gives trains and bus information which includes length of time to travel between cities.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good But Not The Best Guide By Jack Ridley I have been to Switzerland many times. Recently I sat down with my daughter who has worked at a hotel at Interlaken in Switzerland during her years in Business Administration at McGill - up to last summer - and we went over the Switzerland guides to see how they ranked, and what was currently the best guide in our humble opinions. We are not experts but have certain requirements and preferences. It helps if one can get a feel for the area in advance of a trip, and generally that is helped by good maps and color photos. So those guides do better in our review. We like to make reservations by internet and telephone and just use the Guide as a "guide". Generally it costs more to publish a book with color photos so when all else is reasonably equal, one feels that they get better value with a guide with photos. Also we wanted to see if the ambiance at certain hotels and resorts was accurately portrayed in the text based on our knowledge. So those aspects of the guides determine our ranking. Incidentally all the books are excellent. When we did our review the new DK Eyewitness guide was not yet available, but in any case it will be short, under 400 pages.

For the Swiss guides we separated the guides into three groups, 5, 4, and 3 stars.

5 Stars (this group has nice color photos plus maps and text).

A. Green Guide to Switzerland published February 2001 by Michelin, 395 pages, \$14., ranked 24,380 on .com, 0.64" x 9.4" x 4.7", lots of photos, maps, text, accurate portrayal of areas. Gives a nice idea of what you will find. Goes right down to small villages in detail even though it is just 395 pages. First choice.

B. Lonely Planet Switzerland published July 2003, 335 pages, \$ 14., ranked 29,913 on .com, .69" x 6.42" x 6.5". Solid effort, lots of good photos and descriptions.

4 Stars (this group mainly text and maps).

C. Rough Guide to Switzerland published June 2003, 704 pages, \$13.27, ranked 30,209 on .com, 1.08" x 7.8" x 6.38". Solid effort lots of things to see and do and best "text and maps only" books.

D. Frommer's Switzerland published February 2003, 512 pages, \$15.39, ranked 47,638 on .com, 1.1" x 8.5" x 5.08". Similar to Rough Guide but shorter.

E. Fodor's Guide to Switzerland 42 edition, published December 2002, 448 pages, \$14.7, ranked highest in group on .com at 3,172, 1.2" x 8.98" x 5.01". The smallest in the group, do not know why it is so popular?

3 Stars

F. Michelin Red Guide published in 2004, 563 pages but in four languages: Italian, French, German and English so English sections are just a fraction of the book.

The Rough Guide to Switzerland digs beneath the hype to show you how to get the best of this beautiful country. A full-colour section introduces Switzerland's highlights from the iconic Matterhorn to Zurich's markets. Throughout the guide there are inspiring accounts of every attraction, from world-class art galleries to classic train journeys. There is practical advice on where to find the best mountain walks, the most scenic ski resorts and perfect alpine hideaways. In addition there are accommodation reviews for all budgets and in-depth background on Swiss culture, history and wildlife.

About the Author Matthew Teller is an experienced and accomplished travel writer. He is also the author of the Rough Guide to Jordan. 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 region, or make a tour of exploration around the whole country. 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. 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 medi-eval 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 fine cobbled Old Town, while equally attractive Luzern (Lucerne) lies in the centre of the country on its own, famously beautiful lake. Basel is located on the Rhine at the point where France, Germany and Switzerland meet, while at the opposite end of the country, 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 regional towns 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. There are almost limitless possibilities for exploring the great outdoors. The Alps run in a band across the centre and south of the country, with resorts big and small plus 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, most mountain resorts close down altogether (see p.436 for more). The best-known Alpine region is the Bernese Oberland, focused around the tourist hub of Interlaken and boasting such famous names as Wengen and Grindelwald; to the south, in Valais, sit Verbier, Crans Montana and, at the foot of the iconic Matterhorn, Zermatt. In Graubünden in the southeast are Davos, Klosters and St Moritz. Justifiably popular, all these places boast some of the best skiing and hiking in Europe. 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. However, 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 Jura mountains 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 chic lakeside resort of Locarno nearby.