**Lausanne** is attractive and vibrant, set on a succession of south-facing terraces above Lake Geneva, with the Old Town at the top, the train station and commercial districts in the middle, and the former fishing village of **Ouchy**, now prime territory for waterfront café-lounging and strolling, at the bottom. Switzerland’s biggest university makes this a lively, fun city. For chilled-out bars, head for the trendy **Flon** district. To reach the central **Place St-François** from the train station, walk up the steep **rue du Petit-Chêne**, or take the metro to **Flon**; from the metro platforms, lifts raise you to the level of the giant Grand Pont, between **Place Bel-Air** on the left and Place St-François on the right. From here, Rue St-François drops down into a valley and up again to the cobbled **Place de la Palud**, an ancient, fountained square flanked by the Renaissance town hall.