A great excursion from Zürich is the half-day trip north to the **Rhine Falls** ([rhinefalls.com](http://www.rheinfall.ch/en/)), Europe’s largest waterfalls, 3km west of **Schaffhausen**. They are magnificent, not so much for their height (just 23m) as for their impressive breadth (150m) and sheer drama, with spray rising in a cloud of rainbows above the forested banks and the turreted castle, **Schloss Laufen**, on the south bank. Come on the national holiday, August 1, for the famous fireworks display. In summer, the best views are from daredevil boats ([maendli.ch](http://www.maendli.ch)), which scurry about in the spray from Schloss Laufen or Schlössli Wörth, across the river, from where a restaurant gives a great view of the falls. Take a train to Schaffhausen then bus #1 to Neuhausen Zentrum, or a local train to either Laufen am Rheinfall (below the castle; April–Oct) or Neuhausen; you can also walk in 30 minutes from Schaffhausen to the bridge above the falls.