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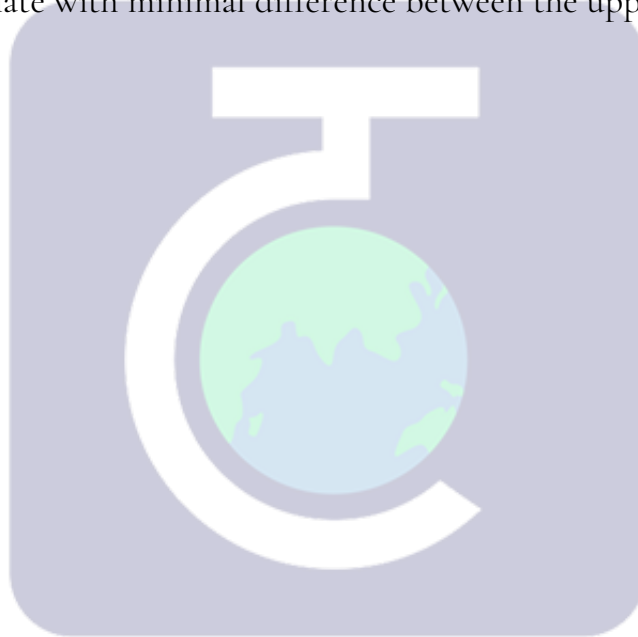
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1. Geographical location

Located 566 m above sea level, Interlaken gets its name from its position between lakes. The town is situated between Lake Brienz on the east and Lake Thun on the west on an alluvial land called Bodeli. The Aare River flows from one lake to the other through the town. The total area of the municipality of Interlaken is 4.3 square kilometres. Interlaken is a Bernese Highlands region of the Swiss Alps. The nearby Alpine peaks include Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau. The town has an oceanic climate with minimal difference between the upper and lower measures of climatic conditions.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Bern, The Capital Of Switzerland Is About 50 Minutes Train Ride From Interlaken At A Distance Of 56 Km. There Are Many Villages Surrounding The Town That Include Wengen, Muerren, Among Others. Smaller Town Like Meriingnen, Spiez, Etc. Are Also Nearby. The City Of Thun Lies About 30 Km Away. Grindelwald, Another Popular Destination Is Located At A Distance Of 20 Km From Interlaken. Being Centrally Located In The Country, The City Is Well Connected To Almost All The Tourist As Well As Important Cities In Switzerland Such As Geneva, Zurich, Lucerne, Zermatt, Etc.



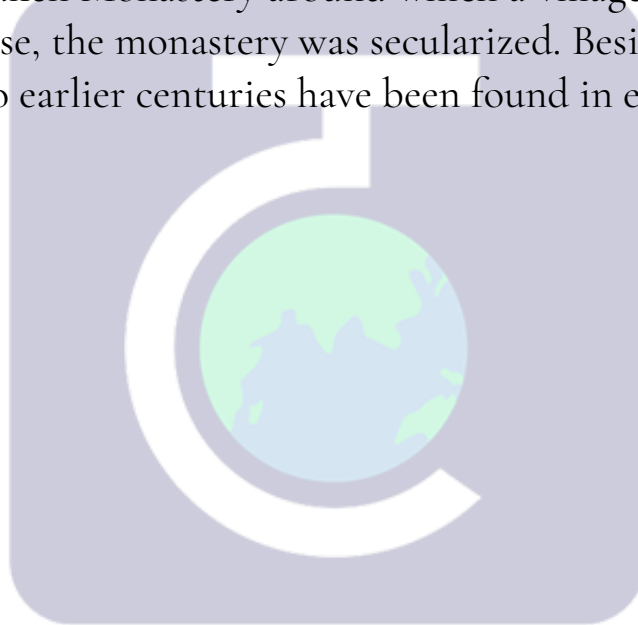
3. Significance

A base for exploring the mountains and skiing areas in the Bernese Highlands, Interlaken is an important tourist destination in Switzerland. While most tourists visit the city mainly for accommodation and as a place to start their adventures, Interlaken also has many attractions and thrilling experiences that fascinate the tourists from all over the world. This is a perfect place for a family vacation as it is not crowded like the other more popular skiing resorts in the nearby areas. The city also has some heritage sites of national significance and hosts a variety of cultural events during summer and winter.



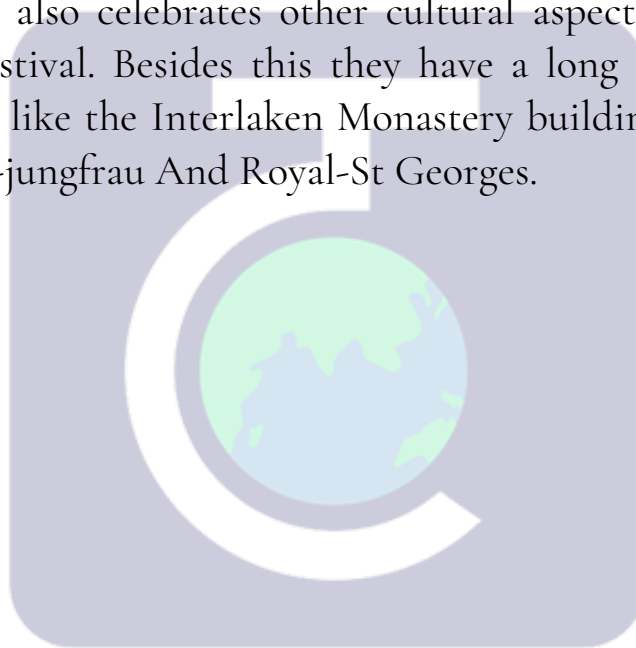
4. History

The place was previously known as Aarmuhle and got its present name Interlaken in 1891. It is one of the oldest tourist places in Switzerland. Interlaken was famous for printing, textile and watch making industries. However, tourism is the mainstay of the economy today. Interlaken was an important settlement during middle ages and several structures are associated with this period. The important example is the Interlaken Monastery around which a village and market grew. In 1528 reformation phase, the monastery was secularized. Besides, several coins and artefacts belonging to earlier centuries have been found in excavation here.



5. Cultural identity

Interlaken is a quiet place with low population and has always been a popular tourist place. That is why you can always find people from around the world holidaying here. Swiss are very proud of their culture and celebrate Unspunnenfest festival to honour their rich heritage. This festival is held after every 12 years and features competitions like Steinstossen, Schwingen and yodelling. Interlaken also celebrates other cultural aspects like music through Greenfield Music Festival. Besides this they have a long tradition of building wonderful structures like the Interlaken Monastery building, Hotels of heritage significance Victoria-jungfrau And Royal-St Georges.



Index**6. Natural resources**

Interlaken has a great supply of flowing water from its lakes and rivers. A major part of the land is used for agricultural purposes. There is also a substantial amount of forested land which has heavily forested areas and orchards. The agricultural land is put to use for growing crops, pastures, orchards, and vine crops.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Touristik-Museum der Jungfrau-Region

Embark on an exciting journey that takes you through the 25 years of tourism that the city has excelled in at the Tourism Museum for the Jungfrau region. A well-known attraction, it spreads over 3 floors and describes the evolution of travel for pleasure and quick getaways in the Jungfrau region. Being the first and only museum of this kind exclusively dedicated to the history of tourism, it also proffers a range of old bicycles, vintage skis and sleds.

Address : Obere G. 28, 3800 Unterseen, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.68691810000001, 7.849172899999985

Contact : +41 33 822 98 39

Website : <http://www.tourismuseum.ch/de/>

Nearest Public Transport : Unterseen, Friedhof Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: 5 CHF Guest Card: 4 CHF Children: 2 CHF

Open & Close Timing : May 1 to October 9: Thursday to Sunday:
14:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. Kunsthau Interlaken

Kunsthau Interlaken provides you a vivid range of cultural programs comprising of theatre and concert performances with artists such as Eva Maria Gisler, Beat Feller, Adrian Remund, Philipp Schaerer and many more. A place where different cultures converge, you will find a good mix of art, music, theater, dance, literature and film. Don't miss out on the exhibitions where you can view some of the most amazing paintings of various artists and take art lessons as well.

Address : Jungfraustrasse 55, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.68447279999999, 7.85709989999998

Contact : +41 33 822 16 61

Website : <http://kunsthausinterlaken.ch/>

Nearest Public Transport : Interlaken, Zentralplatz Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: 8 CHF Students: 5 CHF Concerts & Theater Performances: 20 CHF to 35 CHF

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday to Saturday: 15:00hrs-18:00hrs Sunday: 11:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday & Tuesday Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. Seilpark Interlaken / Adventure Park Interlaken

A renowned adventure theme park of Switzerland, Seilpark Interlaken offers you various adventurous activities comprising of wooden bridges, Tarzan swings and zip lines. With 9 different and innovative types of rope courses, you can bring your adrenaline rush to the surface. The free fall, height, and speed are the most thrilling moments on the entire tour. Proffering over 100 challenges ranging from ground level up to 20 meters in height, you will be equipped with everything you need.

Address : Wagnerenstrasse, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.674095, 7.854688000000001

Contact : +41 33 826 77 19

Website : <https://www.seilpark-interlaken.ch/en/>

Nearest Public Transport : Interlaken DIH Inclined Railway Station

Entry Fee : The fee varies according to the adventure. Adults: 39 CHF Children up to 16 years: 29 CHF Group of 10 people: 36 CHF School Groups up to 16 years: 24 CHF

Open & Close Timing : April to May: Monday to Friday: 13:00hrs-18:00hrs Saturday & Sunday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs June: Daily 10:00hrs-18:00hrs July to August: Daily 10:00hrs-20:00hrs September & October: Monday to Friday: 13:00hrs-18:00hrs Saturday & Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs November to March (On Request)

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Schilthorn

Rising up to 2,970 meters, Schilthorn invites visitors from all over the world to revel in its magnificent 360-degree panoramic view of the Swiss Skyline that comprises of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. Renowned as the 'James Bond Mountain', you can fill in his footsteps by paying a visit to the adventure exhibition 'Bond World 007' or on the new '007 Walk of Fame'. Pump up your adrenaline at the 'Skyline Walk' and the 'Thrill Walk', and don't forget to indulge in a meal at the revolving restaurant with James Bond champagne, breakfast and 007 burgers, accompanied by beautiful views.

Address : Schilthorn, 3825 Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3825

Location : 46.5572589999999, 7.83525399999996

Contact : +41 33 856 21 50

Website : <http://schilthorn.ch/en/Welcome>

Nearest Public Transport : Schilthorn Gondola Lift Station

Entry Fee : Single trip: Adults: CHF 105 Children (6-15 years): CHF 52.50 Round trip from Lauterbrunnen: Adults: CHF 114.20 Children (6-15 years): CHF 57.10

Kindly check the website for more prices.

Open & Close Timing : Kindly check the website for the same before finalizing your visit.

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. St. Beatus Caves

Address : 3800 Sundlauenen, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.6844339, 7.78188420000003

Contact : +41 33 841 16 43

Website : <http://www.beatushoehlen.swiss/en/>

Nearest Public Transport : Beatushöhlen Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: CHF 18 Children (6-16 years): CHF 10 Family Pass (Parents and children between 6-16 years): CHF 49 Dogs: CHF 10 Adult groups (10-50

people): CHF 16 Adult groups (50+ people): CHF 15 Museum: Adults: CHF 6
Children (6-16 years): CHF 3

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:45hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Höheweg

Running between Interlaken West and Interlaken Ost Railway Stations, Höheweg is the main street in Interlaken adorned with numerous hotels, restaurants, shops, boutiques and gardens. Hop on a horse-drawn carriage or explore the street on foot enjoying the beautiful views of the snow-covered Jungfrau mountain. Undoubtedly one of the best focal points in town, it is a renowned meeting place for guests and an ideal place to linger around.

Address : Höheweg, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.6880467, 7.861580900000035

Nearest Public Transport : Interlaken, Kursaal Bus station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Rugenbräu

Christian Indermühle started this brewing company in the year 1866, and today it is one of the most visited attractions in the city. Making a room for 70 people, this brewing company narrates intriguing stories about whiskey in a unique atmosphere between 300 barrels. The beers, whiskeys, and wines produced here are traded internationally and includes sweet fragrance of malt and sweet pale grains. Don't miss out on the clean beer that stands for the clear air and beautiful atmosphere of Alpine air and water.

Address : Wagnerenstrasse 40, 3800 Matten b. Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.6706695, 7.855180900000005

Contact : +41 33 826 46 56

Website : <http://www.rugenbraeu.ch/>

Nearest Public Transport : Heimwehfluh Inclined Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 07:30hrs-12:00hrs; 13:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Unspunnen Castle (Ruin)

Visit this alluring Unspunnen Castle where time stands still amidst the breathtaking views of the city. The rooms are surprisingly still furnished the way they were under the original castle owners. Constructed in the early years of the 12th century, it was in 1805 when the Alpine Shepherds' Festival was first held here. It hosts the Unspunnenfest which are traditional Swiss competitions across the ruins of the field. Ride or walk through the areas of this castle to soak in the historic atmosphere.

Address : 3812 Wilderswil, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3812

Location : 46.6686662, 7.857290599999942

Nearest Public Transport : Wilderswil, Gemeindeverwaltung Bus Station (NR)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Eigerstrasse

Eigerstrasse is one of the busiest places in the city of Interlaken with an array of shopping malls, markets and restaurants. You can have the best variety of Swiss food here after shopping with traditional and unique items signifying the culture of Interlaken. Head here in your free time and you will surely end up returning with bags filled with souvenirs and the best of Swiss delicacies.

Address : Eigerstrasse, 3800 Unterseen, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.683675299999999, 7.844044199999985

Nearest Public Transport : Unterseen, Seestrasse Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Harder Kulm

Situated at a height of 1,322 meters above sea level, Harder Kulm offers amazing views of Interlaken from the top and the Two-Lake Footbridge is a gorgeous

point of attraction. Enjoy nurturing Lake Thun and Lake Brienz or witness the enchanting views of Monch Jungfrau and Eiger. Trek right up to the top or hop on a funicular to reach this natural wonder from Interlaken which takes 10 minutes and will cost you around 16 CHF.

Address : Interlaken, Switzerland, 3800

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.6973245, 7.851656199999979

Nearest Public Transport : Harder Kulm Inclined Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Wunderli La Bijouterie AG

Looking for an amazing Swiss watch that suits your wrist? Wunderli La Bijouterie AG is where you should head to. They have the best designs and high-quality watches.

Address : Bahnhofstrasse 49, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.6824094, 7.852104899999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Kirchhofer AG

Visit this amazing store renowned for selling Swiss knives among many other products that they deal in. With innumerable versions, you will definitely find that one perfect knife at this store that you wish to own.

Address : Höhweg 95, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.6872979, 7.859409199999995

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Migros Mall

Migros Mall is among the top favorites of locals as well as tourists as it serves as a

good place to buy food products at fairly low prices. Head here to fill your bags with some local delicacies, especially Swiss cheese.

Address : Rugenparkstrasse 1, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.681558, 7.85213699999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Statue Of Yash Chopra

A statue of the iconic Indian filmmaker, Yash Chopra, was erected in the heart of Interlaken as a tribute to him for enhancing the popularity of Switzerland among the Indian diaspora. Strike a pose with this 350 kg statue of him leaning on his camera that stands in the Kursaal garden, making it a popular spot for tourists.

Address : Höheweg 71, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3800

Location : 46.6877207, 7.858751399999996

Nearest Public Transport : Interlaken Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Sphinx Observatory

Address : 3801 Fieschertal, Switzerland

Zipcode : 3801

Location : 46.5475035, 7.985067599999997

Contact : +41 31 631 40 52

Website : <https://www.jungfrau.ch/en-gb/>

Nearest Public Transport : Jungfraujoch Train Station

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Interlaken offers a host of adventures such as hiking, walking, paragliding, hang gliding, bungee jumping, canyoning, river rafting, rock climbing, and much more. Tourists can enjoy swimming, sailing, boating, biking, skydiving, skiing, snowboarding, sledging, night sledding, ice skating, and many other outdoor activities depending on the season.

- **Multi-sport -**

Address : Hauptstrasse 15, 3800 Matten Bei Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.6815684,7.86309089999997

Contact No : +41 33 826 77 19

Website : <https://www.outdoor-interlaken.ch/en/winter>

Nearest Public Transport : Matten b. I., Hotel Regina Bus station

Entry Fees : 38 CHF to 120 CHF

Open / Close Time : Winter – 08:00hrs-12:00hrs; 16:00hrs-19:00hrs

Summer – 08:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 7

Index**9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums**

There are various sports involved in this city. Most of which are related to snow sports such as skiing and skate boarding.



10. Spas and relaxation

The spa and relaxation centers of the city offer different relaxing facilities with pools, baths and ice fountain.

- **VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU Grand Hotel und Spa:**

Address : Höhweg 41, CH-3800, Interlaken

Location : 46.6864849,7.856907299999989

Contact No : +41 33 828 28 28

Website : <https://www.victoria-jungfrau.ch/en>

- **Landhotel Golf & Salzano SPA:**

Address : Landhotel Golf, Family Sonja und Patrizio Salzano, Seestrasse /
Lehnweg 31, 3800 Interlaken-Unterseen, Switzerland

Location : 46.681019999999999,7.828305999999998

Contact No : +41 33 821 00 70

Website : <http://www.golf-landhotel.ch/en/spa/uebersicht-wellnessanlage>

11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Jungfrau Music Festival (22nd to 28th)

There are International music performances that spice up the chilly winters with symphonies, jazz, brass bands, and much more.

Greenfield-Festival (8th to 10th)

A grand outdoor music festival where Swiss and International bands perform. You can enjoy multiple performances from the Green Day band.

International Jungfrau Marathon (9th)

A mega event in which the runners climb 1829 m in the 42 km marathon. You run through excellent and breath - taking views of the city and reach to the Kleine Scheidegg.

Top of Europe Ice Magic (17th to February)

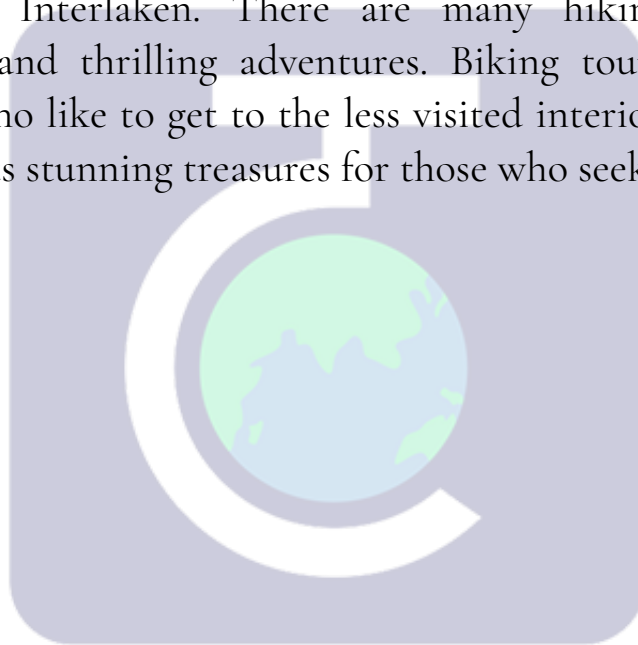
An exciting ice skating festival in a fairytale backdrop with lots of fun and food. The winding

**runways, ice rinks and cosy
restaurants make the skating
experience quite unique.**



12. Key local guides and tours

Though most of the more exciting activities are concentrated on the nearby locations, Interlaken has its own share of adventures and sights that tourists can enjoy through many local tours. Walking tours are probably the best way to experience the sights and sites of Interlaken. Since it is a small city, most walking tours can cover the entire city and its attractions in a single day. Hiking tours are equally popular in Interlaken. There are many hiking trails that offer breathtaking views and thrilling adventures. Biking tours are for the more adventurous types who like to get to the less visited interior areas where nature has hidden some of its stunning treasures for those who seek it.



13. Transportation hubs

The nearest international airport to Interlaken is the Berne Airport which is 51 km away from the city. Interlaken can be accessed by train, bus, or taxi from the airport. A train ride will take about 2 hours while a taxi can reach the city in around 40 minutes. The cost of the train journey is approximately 25 CHF. A taxi ride will cost about 220 CHF. There are two railway stations in Interlaken, Interlaken Ost and Interlaken West.



14. Transportation cost

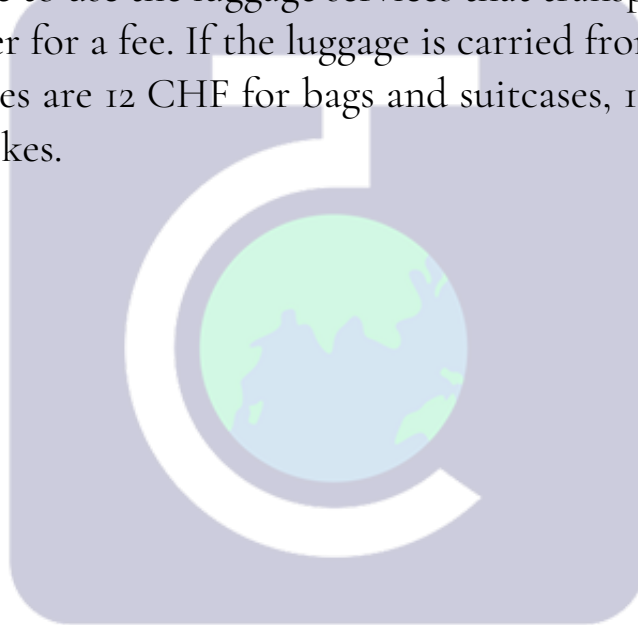
While it is easier to move around Interlaken by foot or on bike, taxis are also available for tourists. Visitor's Cards provided by hotels allow free travel within the city and give discounts to local attractions. A rail pass is the best option to travel to the nearby destinations from Interlaken. Regional holiday pass for Bernese Oberland region is available for 4, 6, 8, or 10 days. This pass allows free travel by rail and bus, and has discounts and other benefits on around 15 mountain railways. The price ranges between 250 CHF to 468 CHF.



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15. Baggage allowance

Train travel in Switzerland does not cost any additional charges for luggage. There are designated spaces for luggage in trains. The bags and suitcases that are of normal size can be accommodated in the luggage racks above seats, between the backrests, or at the end of the coach though the luggage will be left unattended in this area. In the case of more number of luggage or heavy pieces of luggage, it is desirable to use the luggage services that transport luggage from one destination to another for a fee. If the luggage is carried from one railway station to another, the charges are 12 CHF for bags and suitcases, 18 CHF for bikes, and 36 CHF for special bikes.



Index**16. Must try food and local savouries**

The must try food dishes of Interlaken largely involves the creams and the meringues. The fondues, especially the Cheese Fondue, are one of the most liked cuisines of Interlaken.



17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Many of the restaurants are located Hauptstrasse and Jungfraustrasse areas.

Food -

Many of the restaurants are located Hauptstrasse and Jungfraustrasse areas.

- **INDIA VILLAGE:**

Address : Brienzstrasse 38, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.6930272,7.8705098000000036

Contact No : +41 33 821 21 50

Website : <http://india-village.net/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Hotel - Restaurant Aarburg b. Interlaken:**

Address : Beatenbergstrasse 1, 3800 Unterseen (Interlaken), Switzerland

Location : 46.687262,7.8504410000000046

Contact No : +41 33 822 26 15

Open / Close Time : Thursday to Monday 08:00hrs-23:00hrs; Tuesday & Wednesday Closed

- **Restaurant Laterne:**

Address : Obere Bönigstrasse, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.6836317,7.8704596000000004

Contact No : +41 33 822 11 41

Website : <http://www.restaurant-laterne.ch/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Friday 06:00hrs-00:00hrs Saturday

07:30hrs-00:00hrs Sunday 09:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Da Rafmi GmbH:**

Address : Jungfraustrasse 2, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.685105,7.855354000000034

Contact No : +41 33 822 53 83

Website : <http://www.darafmi.ch/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Restaurant Spice India:**

Address : City Hotel Oberland, Postgasse 6, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.6856371,7.855044499999963

Contact No : +41 33 821 00 91

Website : <http://www.city-oberland.ch/de/restaurants-bars/spice-india.html>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Sunday 12:30hrs-14:30hrs; from 18:00hrs;
May to August – Open from 18:00hrs Closed on Mondays; December to February Closed

- **Quaranta Uno Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel:**

Address : Höhweg 41, 3800 Interlaken

Location : 46.6864849,7.856907299999989

Contact No : +41338282602

Website : <http://www.victoria-jungfrau.ch/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Saturday 19:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Restaurant El Azteca:**

Address : Jungfraustrasse 30, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.68467019999999,7.856239599999981

Contact No : +41 33 822 71 31

Website : <http://www.hotel-blume.ch/index.php/de/restaurant>

Open / Close Time : Summer – May to September 07:30hrs-14:00hrs;
17:30hrs-23:30hrs; Closed on Wednesdays Winter – October to April –
17:30hrs-23:30hrs

- **Restaurant Bären:**

Address : Seestrasse 2, 3800 Unterseen, Switzerland

Location : 46.68521330000001,7.847851999999989

Contact No : +41 33 822 75 26

Website : <http://baeren-unterseen.ch/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-14:00hrs; 17:30hrs-22:30hrs

- **The 3 Tells Irish Pub:**

Address : Hauptstrasse 49, 3800 Matten bei Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.680595,7.864193

Contact No : +41 33 822 18 25

Website : <http://www.the3tells.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-00:30hrs

- **Hüsi Bierhaus:**

Address : Postgasse 3, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland

Location : 46.6860803,7.854629799999998

Contact No : +41 33 823 23 32

Website : <http://www.huesi-interlaken.ch/index.php/en/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Thursday 15:00hrs-00:30hrs Friday

13:30hrs-01:30hrs Saturday 11:30hrs-01:30hrs Sunday 11:30hrs-00:30hrs



Index**18. Average meal cost**

A regular meal at an inexpensive restaurant will come to 18 CHF. There are some mid-range restaurants that offer a three-course meal for 2 for 100 CHF. A Combo Meal at McDonalds can cost 15 CHF. A regular cappuccino can be bought for 4.49 CHF. A small 0.33 litre bottle of water costs 2.09 CHF.



Index**19. Shopping**

You can find entire range of gifts and souvenirs to take back home like chocolates, watches and sports gear in the main shopping street in Interlaken called Hoheweg. The street is home to several local shops, exotic boutiques and eateries.



20. Tourist benefits

Tourists can enjoy tax free shopping in Switzerland. They can claim up to 8% of the purchase amount at the airport at the time of leaving the country. The VAT refund sign is displayed on shop fronts. In order to claim the tax refund, the tourist has to make a purchase of a minimum of 300 CHF in one day at the same shop. The refund forms are provided by the shops. The completed form along with the original purchase receipt and the purchased goods has to be produced at the Customs desk at the airport for processing the refund. It is necessary to keep the purchased goods in separate packs.



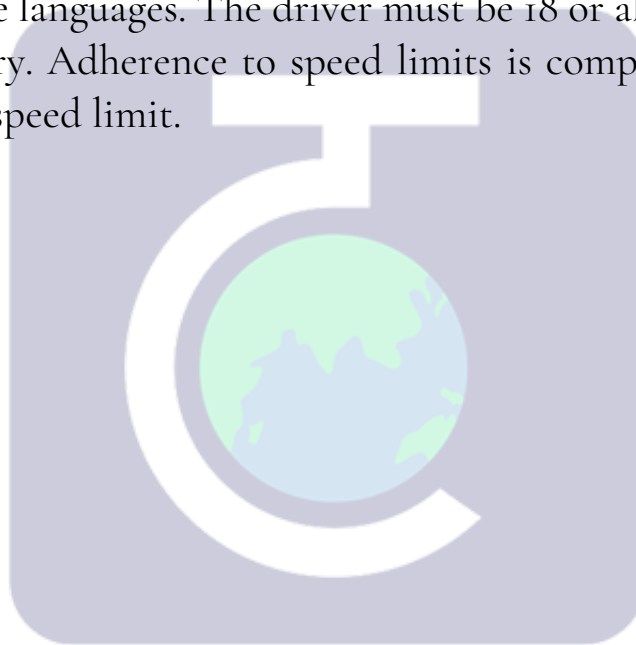
21. Essential local apps

Mobile apps can be really helpful for tourists to find their way around in a new city or book a ticket for public transport systems. SBB Mobile railway app provides real-time timetables, makes buying tickets easier, finds connections from current location, helps in showing tickets on mobile, and offers a convenient way to reserve tickets on national, international, and city connections for the travel. Rega app is from the Swiss air rescue for emergency situations during hiking, skiing, mountaineering, etc. iSKI Swiss app is a comprehensive app for skiing that provides information about ski resorts, weather, slopes, lifts, ski schools, hotels, routes, etc.



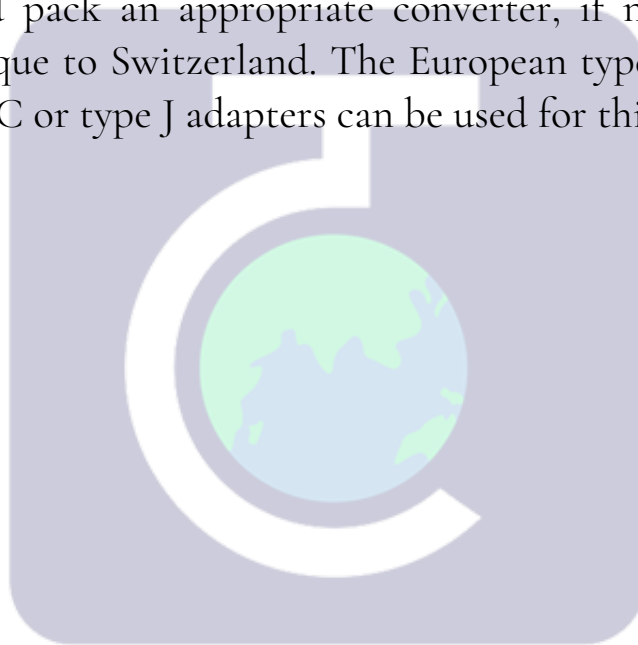
22. Driving

It is possible for the foreign tourists to drive around in Switzerland if they have a valid driving license from their respective countries. The licenses must be in French, German, Italian, or English, the official languages of Switzerland. If the national license is not in any of these languages, the tourist will need an International Driving Permit or a certified translation of the national driving license in any of these languages. The driver must be 18 or above to be eligible for driving in the country. Adherence to speed limits is compulsory and each zone will have a different speed limit.



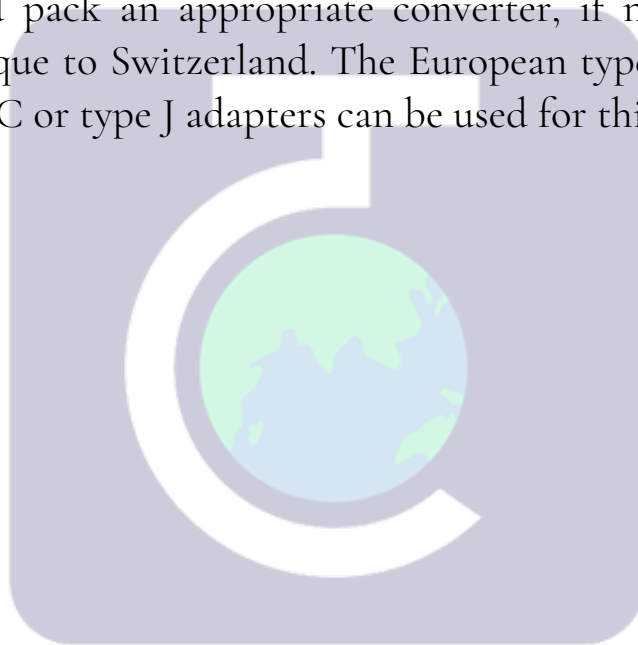
23. Travel essentials

Travelers usually forget to pack some essential items like memory cards, chargers, etc. Make sure that you have all the necessary travel documents, medicines, prescriptions, first aid, earphones, and insurance documents ready to pack. Check the weather before travel and do not forget rain gear and comfortable shoes. The electrical system used in Switzerland is 230 V, 50 Hz. Check whether your devices can handle this, and pack an appropriate converter, if necessary. The type J electrical plug is unique to Switzerland. The European type C plugs can fit in a Swiss plug. Buy type C or type J adapters can be used for this purpose.



24. Essential clothes

Travelers usually forget to pack some essential items like memory cards, chargers, etc. Make sure that you have all the necessary travel documents, medicines, prescriptions, first aid, earphones, and insurance documents ready to pack. Check the weather before travel and do not forget rain gear and comfortable shoes. The electrical system used in Switzerland is 230 V, 50 Hz. Check whether your devices can handle this, and pack an appropriate converter, if necessary. The type J electrical plug is unique to Switzerland. The European type C plugs can fit in a Swiss plug. Buy type C or type J adapters can be used for this purpose.



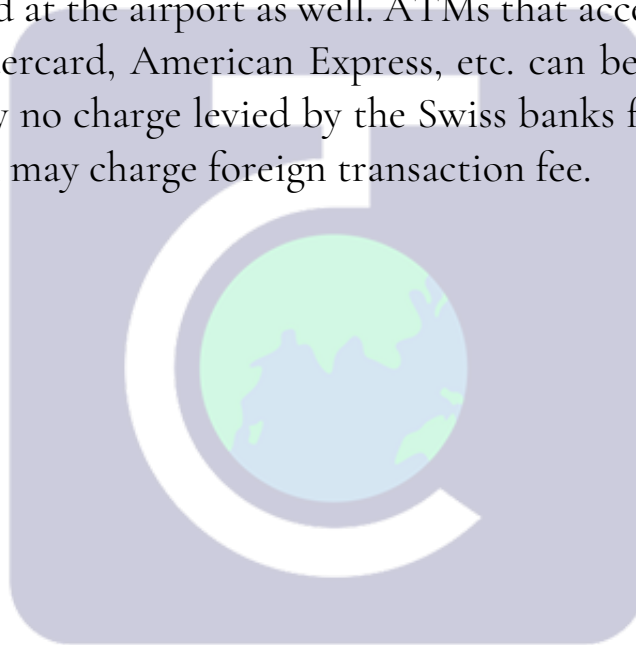
25. Local currency

Swiss franc is the local currency of Interlaken. It is denoted as CHF. 1 USD = 1.01 CHF



26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Banks and currency exchange offices provide foreign currency exchange services in Interlaken. It is also possible to change money at the main railway station or at the post offices. Some hotels have currency exchange desks where the tourists can exchange their foreign currency. There is usually a fee charged by the exchange offices and hotels at about 8-10% of the amount. Foreign currency exchange counters can be found at the airport as well. ATMs that accept international cash cards like Visa, Mastercard, American Express, etc. can be found in Interlaken. While there is usually no charge levied by the Swiss banks for using their ATMs, the card issuing bank may charge foreign transaction fee.



27. Staying connected

You can always stay connected and communicate with friends and families back home while you are in Interlaken. Most Of the hotels here provide free wifi service and speed is also seemingly very good. Phone and mobile connections are also widespread here and even in the most secluded parts, mobile networks give excellent coverage. You need to show your travel document like passport to buy the sim card. Traveler's WiFi is a great option to pick where you receive pocket Wifi rental for only 6 CHF per day.



28. Time Zone

Interlaken follows Eastern Time Zone with UTC – 05:00 hours.



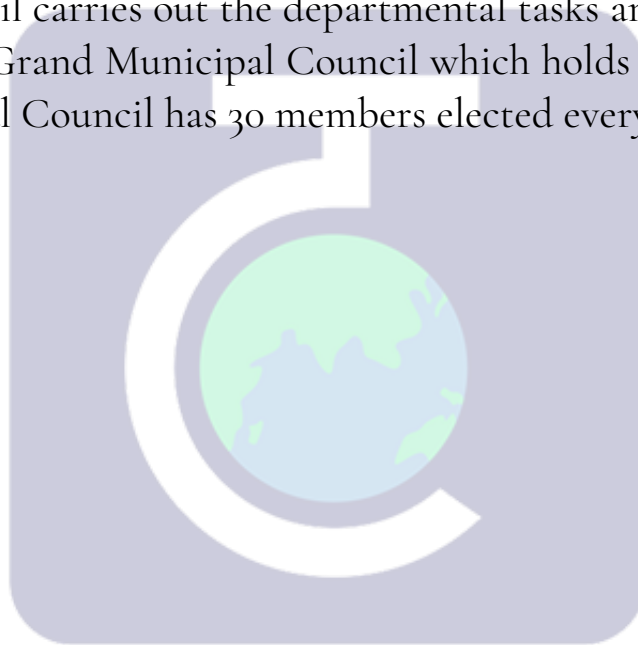
29. Languages

German, English and French are the main languages spoken here.



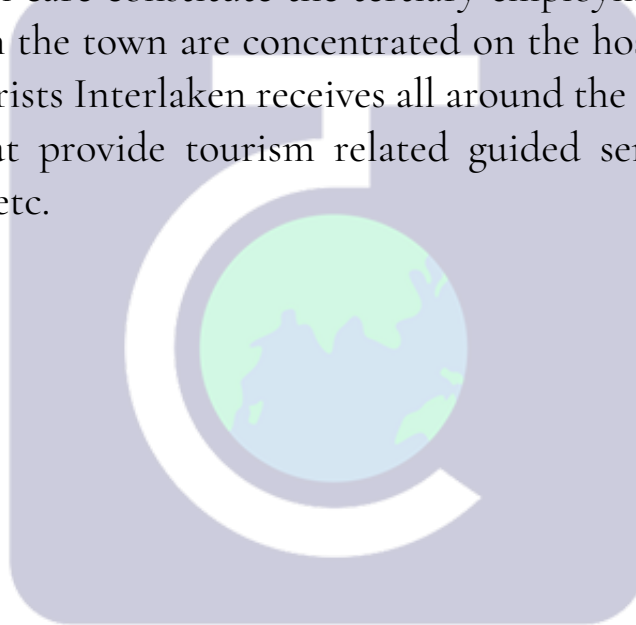
30. Political Scenario

The Municipal Council is the administrative body of Interlaken. The council has 7 members who are responsible for separate portfolios. The councillor of the executive portfolio becomes the executive president. The council is elected every four years by the people of Interlaken. The current municipal council has members of the Social Democratic Party, The Liberals, and Swiss People's Party. The municipal council carries out the departmental tasks and implementation of laws decreed by the Grand Municipal Council which holds the legislative power. The Grand Municipal Council has 30 members elected every four years.



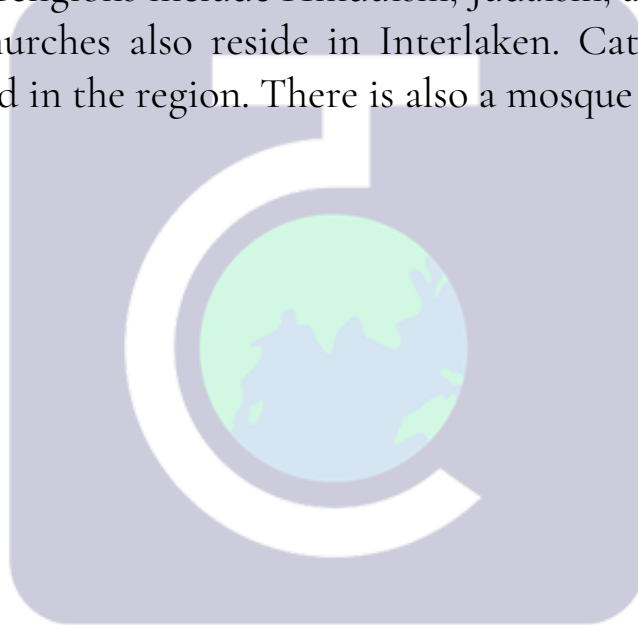
31. Economic Scenario

The primary employment sector in Interlaken is agriculture providing jobs to the largest number of people in the town. The secondary sector includes manufacturing and construction. Wholesale and retail sales, motor vehicle repairing, movement and storage of goods, hotel, restaurant, information industry, insurance, finance industry, technical and scientific professions, education, and health care constitute the tertiary employment sector. Around a quarter of the jobs in the town are concentrated on the hospitality industry due to the number of tourists Interlaken receives all around the season. There are also many companies that provide tourism related guided services like skydiving, skiing, hang gliding, etc.



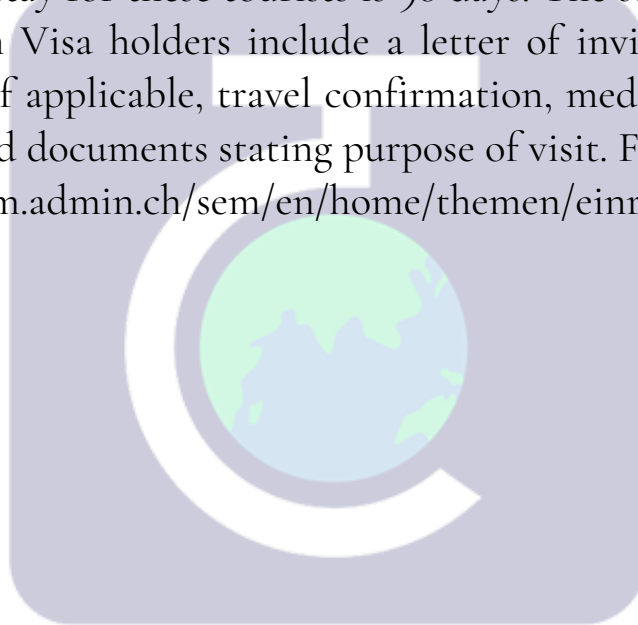
Index**32. Religious belief**

Christianity is the most prominent religion in Interlaken. Among the Christians, the followers of the Swiss Reformed Church form the largest group followed by Roman Catholics. There are people who follow other Christian churches like the Orthodox Church, the Christian Catholic Church, and other Christian Churches. Among the other religions present in the region, Islam has the most number of followers. The other religions include Hinduism, Judaism, and Buddhism. People who follow other churches also reside in Interlaken. Catholic and Protestant churches can be found in the region. There is also a mosque in the city centre.



33. Visa requirements

Tourists need a Schengen Visa to visit Switzerland. However, there are visa exemptions given to tourists from certain countries. The short term Schengen Visa permits the tourists to stay in the country for a maximum of 90 days in any 180 day period. For those from visa exempted countries, a valid passport and other identification documents have to be produced at the time of entry. The maximum period of stay for these tourists is 90 days. The supporting documents needed for Schengen Visa holders include a letter of invitation from a family member or sponsor if applicable, travel confirmation, medical health insurance, means of support, and documents stating purpose of visit. For more information, visit, <https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise.html>.



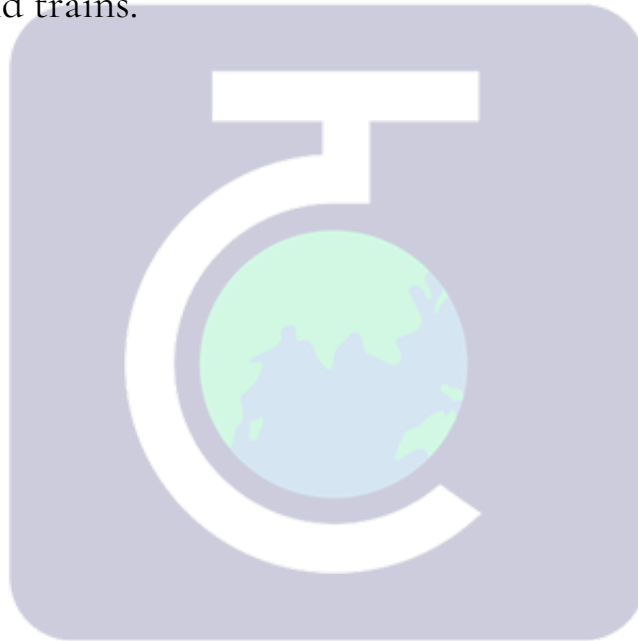
34. Essential vaccination

Check if all your routine vaccinations like DTP or Td, Hib, MMR, polio, varicella, influenza, and pneumococcal are up-to-date before travelling to Switzerland. Some travellers may require vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Rabies depending on the location they are visiting and the duration of stay. You will also need to perform medical and dental exams before the travel.



35. Theft and Safety

Interlaken is a safe place at any time of the day. There are no serious crimes reported against foreign tourists in Interlaken. However, usual travel precautions against pick pockets and petty thieves must be taken by the visitors. Keep a watch on your wallet and other valuables in crowded areas. It is better to keep money and other costly items in the front pockets. Never leave your luggage unattended in railway stations and trains.



36. Embassy/Consulate

Switzerland has 260 foreign embassies and consulates. Important cities like Bern and Geneva have the most number of these offices. You can find more information at <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/switzerland>



37. Accessibility

Interlaken has fine facilities and conveniences for those with limited mobility. Almost all places are accessible on a wheelchair, and special parking areas are provided for people with disabilities. Trains and other modes of travel can accommodate wheelchair bound tourists.



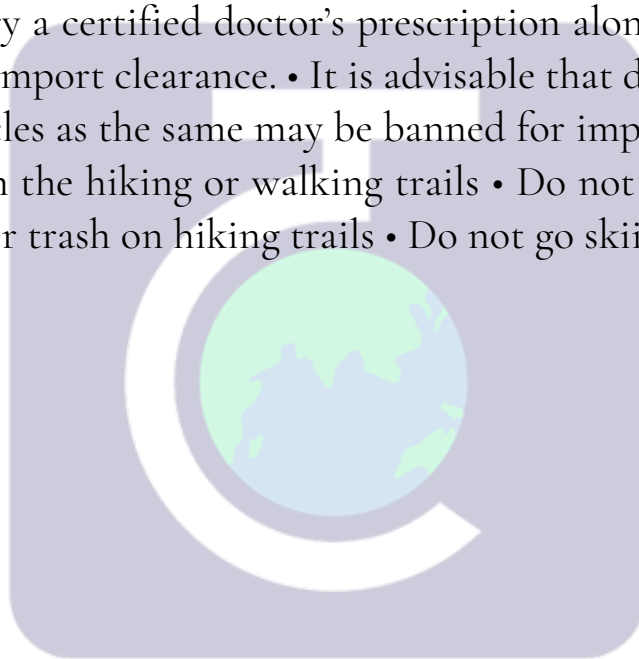
38. Emergencies

Switzerland provides top notch medical care. You can call for ambulance by dialling 144. Call for police help at 117. Dial 1414 for Swiss rescue team. If there is a fire emergency, call 118. Spital Interlaken can help you with travel insurance.



Index**39. Do's and Don'ts**

A basic knowledge of the rules and customs of a place you intend to visit can be quite useful for a hassle free experience in a new place. Do's - • Always use seatbelts while driving • Keep the headlights of the vehicles on even during the day • Beware of icicles hanging from the eaves of buildings near the pavements • Always get the help of experts while skiing • Stick to the marked hiking routes • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import. Don'ts - • Do not scare wild animals on the hiking or walking trails • Do not throw plastic bottles or wrappers and other trash on hiking trails • Do not go skiing alone



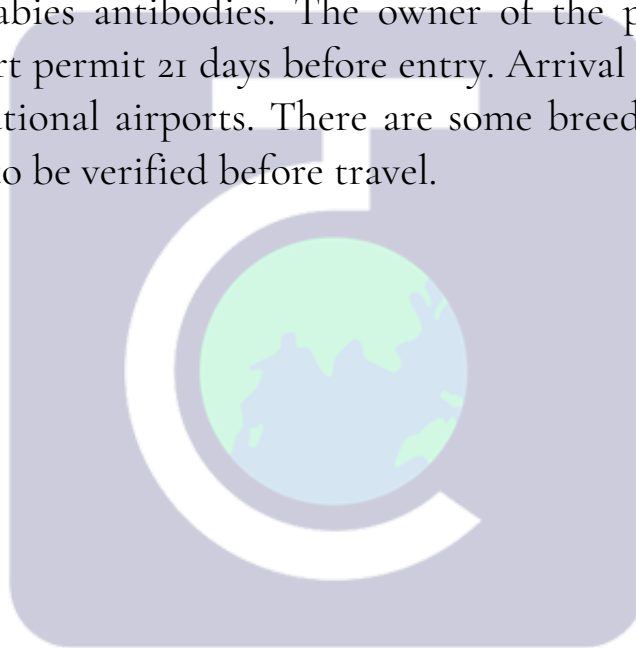
40. Tipping basics

Tipping is not expected in Switzerland as the bills already include the service charge. However, it won't be rude to pay something extra to your service provider for the exceptional service. This can be done by rounding up the bill to the nearest franc or by giving a small percentage as tip. Hotel staff is usually given 1-2 CHF as a token of your appreciation. 10-15% of the price is the usually accepted tip.



41. Pet info

In order to bring a pet animal into Switzerland, it has to be micro chipped at the country of origin before entry into Switzerland. This procedure should be followed by a vaccination against rabies taken 21 days prior to travel. Additional vaccination against distemper must be given to dogs. Pets from high rabies countries must undergo a blood titer test 30 days after the rabies vaccination to verify the level of rabies antibodies. The owner of the pet has to submit an application for import permit 21 days before entry. Arrival is restricted by direct flights at the international airports. There are some breed restrictions in some cantons. These have to be verified before travel.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Located in Bernese Highlands of Switzerland, Interlaken serves as a popular destination for adventure and sports activities. It also serves as base for exploring surrounding lakes, hills, valleys and forest regions. People looking for an adrenaline rush indulge in outdoor escapades like swimming and sailing in nearby Thun and Brienz Lake, skydiving from 4000 metres from helicopter, skiing and snow-boarding on ice covered hills and valleys of Jungfrau region. You can also enjoy night camps and boat trips in Interlaken. In and around Interlaken, you can visit beautiful gardens like the Japanese Garden or take a ride in mountain railways to enjoy the fabulous beauty of Jungfrauoch. In Switzerland, Interlaken has the highest number of souvenir shops and you can't go home without a Swiss knife in your luggage. The other famous things for purchase are watches, yummy chocolates, cow-bells and embroideries. Wood carving articles can be bought from nearby Brienz. Enjoy local Swiss cuisine like fondue and raclette at one of the restaurants in the city. There are several other eateries serving Korean, Mexican and dishes from other countries. Interlaken also has an exciting nightlife with many pubs and bars serving great snacks and beer to people.

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