

Swiss Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Switzerland Current Travel Advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Switzerland. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in? Australia. There is a threat of terrorist attack in Switzerland. In recent years, terrorist attacks have occurred in a number of European cities. Terrorists are likely to plan attacks targeting Switzerland. Exercise caution in public places such as shopping areas, places of worship, sporting venues, public transport, airports and other transport hubs, and places of mass gathering. See [Safety and security](#). Petty crime targeting tourists occurs, particularly around transport hubs in major cities. Crime rates increase during peak tourist seasons. See [Safety and security](#). The weather in alpine regions is unpredictable and can change suddenly. You could encounter dangerous avalanches, flash flooding and mudslides. See [Natural disasters](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Switzerland at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including for Tetanus and Diphtheria (with a booster within the last 10 years), Whooping Cough, Polio (with a booster in adult life), Measles, Mumps and Rubella (two combination vaccinations through life), Chicken Pox and a recent annual Influenza vaccination. Vaccination against Hepatitis B should be considered for travellers to Switzerland if they are frequent travellers or intending on a long stay. Tick-borne encephalitis is present throughout many areas in Europe, predominately in forested regions. Whilst no vaccine is available in Australia, travellers visiting risk areas and planning outdoor activities during summer might consider vaccination once in Europe.

Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Switzerland should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Passport and Visa Conditions

Switzerland forms part of the Schengen Area. Australian passport holders are usually allowed to enter the Schengen Area for Tourism or Business purposes for up to 90 days in any 180 day period without a visa. The countries which make up the Schengen Area are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Travellers to the Schengen Area should ensure their passport is valid for at least six months beyond their intended stay. Travellers are also recommended to be able to provide documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, travel insurance covering the period of stay in the Schengen Area as well as tickets and entry documents for their onward destination. Males with (or eligible for) Swiss citizenship may be liable for military service or other obligations upon their return to Switzerland. For further information and to confirm that you are able to travel to the Schengen Area under this visa waiver program, please contact a Swiss mission on the details provided below.

Swiss Representation in Australia

Embassy of Switzerland, Canberra

7 Melbourne Avenue
FORREST ACT 2603

Tel: (02) 6162 8400

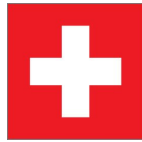
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/australia

Consulate General of Switzerland, Sydney

Level 23, Tower 2
101 Grafton Street
BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022

Tel: (02) 8383 4000

Switzerland also maintains honorary consulates in the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. However, the two posts previously outlined should first be contacted as honorary consulates offer limited services.



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Time Differences between Switzerland and Australia

Switzerland is Greenwich Mean Time +1 hour (+2 during daylight saving). The time zone is called Central European Time (CET) or Central European Summer Time (CEST). Daylight saving is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

Switzerland, 12 noon, December = Perth 7pm; Darwin 8:30pm; Brisbane 9pm; Adelaide 9:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 10pm.
Switzerland, 12 noon, June = Perth 6pm; Darwin, Adelaide 7:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 8pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Switzerland: +41

To Dial Australia Call:
00 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
0800 55 5004. Users may need to insert coins.
Not available from mobile phones.

Travelex Card Services: 0800 563 428

Visa Global Assist: 0800 83 5274

MasterCard: 0800 89 7092

American Express Travellers Cheques:
0800 255 200

Emergency Services:
Ambulance - 144
Fire - 118
Police - 117
Swiss Rescue - 1414

The emergency services may not always have English speakers available. In this case, you should have a local call on your behalf or contact the Australian Consulate General in Geneva.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Switzerland

Consulate General of Australia, Switzerland

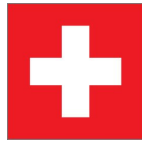
Chemin des Fins 2
Case Postale 102
1211 GENEVA 19

Tel: (+41 22) 799 9100
Fax: (+41 22) 799 9178

Web: www.geneva.mission.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Switzerland are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Consulate General in Geneva, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering Switzerland:

Alcohol: 2 L of alcohol (up to 15% alc/vol) and 1 L of alcohol (over 15% alc/vol).
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco.
 Other Goods: Up to 300 Swiss Francs.

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. For more information on Swiss customs please go to www.ezv.admin.ch. Further restrictions apply to these and other goods, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

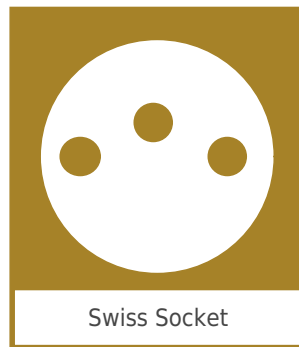
For further details on Australian duty free allowances and other customs restrictions please go to www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket: Swiss (J type).

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia, no voltage/frequency converter required).

Special Tip: Standard European (C type) plugs will work with most Swiss outlets provided they are not set back deep into the wall with a six sided outer boarder (usually only in wet rooms such as bathrooms and kitchens).

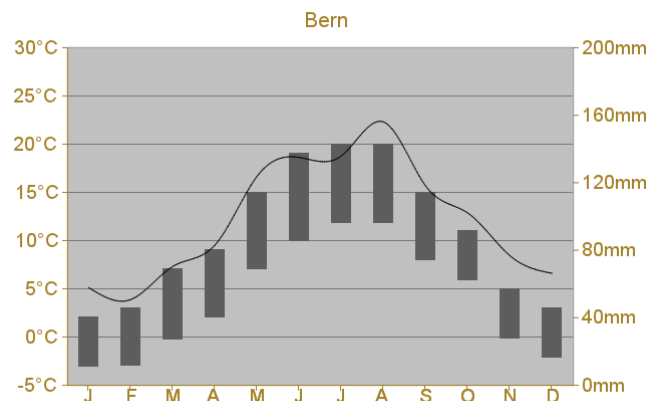
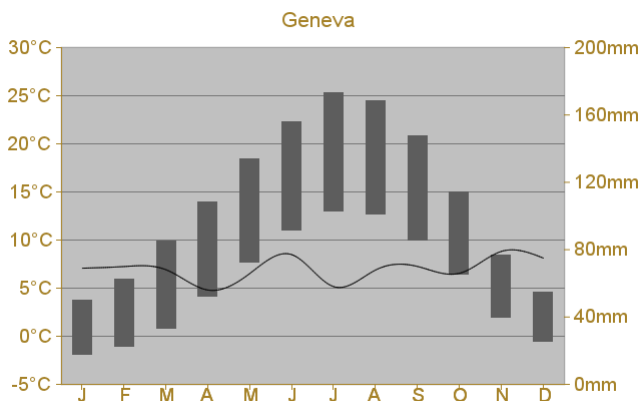


Swiss Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Year	31 May: Corpus Christi*
02 Jan: St Berchtold's Day*	01 Aug: National Day
30 Mar: Good Friday	15 Aug: Assumption*
02 Apr: Easter Monday	01 Nov: All Saints Day*
01 May: Labour Day*	08 Dec: Immaculate Conception*
10 May: Ascension Day*	25 Dec: Christmas Day
21 May: Whit Monday*	26 Dec: St Stephen's Day*

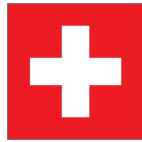
Dates marked with an * apply in many cantons but not all.

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Switzerland



Source: Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology (MeteoSwiss). For local forecasts please go to www.meteoswiss.ch.

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Page 4 of 5 Swiss Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate Purchasing Power Parity

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.72 Swiss Francs
 1 Swiss Franc (CHF) = 1.39 Australian Dollars

Buy Rate (average rate when buying CHF cash in Australia)

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 0.69 Swiss Francs
 1 Swiss Franc (CHF) will cost 1.46 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "Buy Rate" adds 5.3% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin paid when exchanging these currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Swiss Franc and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 4.29 Swiss Francs
 Big Mac Switzerland: 6.50 Fr (CHF) 9.01 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Switzerland is therefore 51% more expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

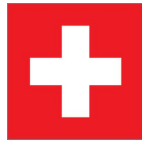
Currency Cheat Sheet

0.50 Fr = \$0.73 AUD	This cheat sheet uses the "Buy Rate" of exchange listed above.	
1 Fr = \$1.46 AUD	10 Fr = \$14.59 AUD	100 Fr = \$145.91 AUD
2 Fr = \$2.92 AUD	20 Fr = \$29.18 AUD	200 Fr = \$291.82 AUD
3 Fr = \$4.38 AUD	30 Fr = \$43.77 AUD	300 Fr = \$437.72 AUD
4 Fr = \$5.84 AUD	40 Fr = \$58.36 AUD	400 Fr = \$583.63 AUD
5 Fr = \$7.30 AUD	50 Fr = \$72.95 AUD	500 Fr = \$729.54 AUD
6 Fr = \$8.75 AUD	60 Fr = \$87.54 AUD	600 Fr = \$875.45 AUD
7 Fr = \$10.21 AUD	70 Fr = \$102.14 AUD	700 Fr = \$1,021.36 AUD
8 Fr = \$11.67 AUD	80 Fr = \$116.73 AUD	800 Fr = \$1,167.26 AUD
9 Fr = \$13.13 AUD	90 Fr = \$131.32 AUD	900 Fr = \$1,313.17 AUD
		1,000 Fr = \$1,459.08 AUD

Banknotes of Switzerland

The legal currency of Switzerland is the Swiss Franc, which is abbreviated using the symbol "SFr" or "Fr". Each Franc is made up of 100 Rappen (centime in French or centesimo in Italian speaking areas). The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation including numerous coins and a 200 Fr and 1000 Fr note. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised not to take the below images with them when travelling.





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About Switzerland

Full Name:	Swiss Confederation. Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft (German).	Significant Dates:	22 BC-401 AD - Celtic tribes of the Swiss plateau (inc. Helvetii, Rauraci, Allobroges) are conquered by Rome.
Founded:	1 August 1291 (Confederacy of three cantons).	1291 AD	- Alliance between Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden cantons against the Habsburgs forms the origin of Switzerland. Other cantons join over time.
Size:	41,277 sq km (60% the size of Tasmania).		- Reformation causes inter-cantonal civil war.
Population:	8 million (36% the size of Australia). Zurich 1.2 mil; Geneva 530,000; Basel 500,000; Bern 355,000; Lausanne 342,000.	1523-1648	- Reformation causes inter-cantonal civil war.
Religion:	Catholic 42%, Protestant 35%, Muslim 4%.	1863	- Henry Dunant founds Red Cross in Geneva.
Language:	German 64%, French 20%, Italian 6.5%.	1874	- Direct democracy is introduced.
GDP Per Capita:	US\$43,900 (Australia US\$40,800).	1914-18	- Switzerland remains neutral during World War 1.
		1939-45	- Switzerland again remains neutral throughout World War 2 when it is surrounded by the Axis.
		1959-71	- Women granted right to vote in elections.
		2002	- Switzerland joins the United Nations.

