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TRAVEL | 3/20/2017 @ 12:08PM | 1247 views

## Five Memorable Things To See And Do In Lucerne, Switzerland

Lucerne is a town with abundant charm, excellent shopping, lake and alpine views, and a host of small wonders that make it a worthy destination for any visit to Switzerland. You'll need at least two days; one to partake of the obvious list of activities (boating on the lake, watch shopping, and visiting the Museum of Transport) and another day to indulge in some of the town's lesser-known gems.



Lucerne, photo courtesy of Swiss Tourism

Start your visit in the ideal location—at The Hotel Schweizerhof. With its prime lakefront location adjacent to the Old Town, the hotel is walking distance to everything you might desire to do in Lucerne. It's also just a click away from the train station and the main marina where Lake Lucerne tour boats depart.

The Schweizerhof is still a family-owned operation boasting over 170 years of history. The best rooms are the corner lakefront options—with three sets of windows that look out over the Alps, Lake Lucerne and the towering Mt. Rigi. They boast abundant natural light, sweeping views and ample space to spread out and enjoy—not to mention a private balcony. Locals and visitors alike populate the hotel's Restaurant Galerie and lakefront balcony for cocktails and dinner.

### The Top Five:

1. Max Chocolate shop. This purveyor of gorgeous chocolates and ice creams is only found in Lucerne. You won't find their decadent truffles anywhere else so stock up while you are in town.
2. **The Hofgarten restaurant** – A terrific spot for local specials and rustic charm. The outdoor patio is a walled courtyard and the meals are simple, fresh and tasty. The weekly Thursday barbecue (with the chef manning an outdoor grill adjacent to the tables) is like a Swiss cookout as the chef grills up everything from pork chops to lamb. The menu delivers honest fare that's very local and fresh in a tranquil setting.
3. Balances Restaurant – This restaurant at the Hotel des Balances is one of the local faves largely because of the picturesque setting and vibrant colorful food cooked to perfection. This riverside dining is arguably more romantic and scenic than anything lakefront. Indeed, most properties on Lake Lucerne are set back a good bit from the lake and views are often obstructed by boats and trees. On the river, you get to watch the spotless alpine water rush by as you dine.
4. The Rosengart Collection – The intimate, astonishing space of the Rosengart is a delight for anyone interested in art. The owner, Anne Rosengart (who was herself painted by Picasso), still visits the museum from time to time. She and her husband were lifetime friends and collectors of Picasso and often invited to view his works before he presented them to the public. The couple now share this lifetime collection of Picasso's works with the visitors of Lucerne—here you'll see works not seen anywhere else, as well as a significant collection of other masters during that time.
5. Musegg Wall – Walk off your lunch of local sausages and rosti with an invigoratingly steep trek along this ancient wall connected by a series of nine towers. These structures have a history that dates back to 1370.

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