

EUROPE · HIKING · MOUNTAINS · HISTORY · CULTURE



Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein squeezes castles, vineyards and serious Alpine hiking into a strip of the Rhine valley about 25 km long. Vaduz Castle, still the prince's home, watches over a compact capital of museums and wine cellars, while trails climb from the valley floor to ridges above 2,000 m. Most visitors come for a day from Zurich or Innsbruck, but walkers are rewarded for staying longer.

i Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Liechtenstein and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 11 August 2026.

CAPITAL Vaduz	CURRENCY Swiss franc (CHF) £1 ≈ CHF 1.10	LANGUAGE German	BEST TIME Jun-Sep
DAILY BUDGET £95-£360 £££ Expensive	PLUGS Type C, J 230V · adapter needed	FLIGHT FROM LONDON 1h 40m direct to ZRH ~£80-£280 return	TIME ZONE UTC+1 standard time

Liechtenstein is a 160 km² principality between Switzerland and Austria, with the Rhine on its western border and the Rätikon Alps rising to the east. Its eleven municipalities run into one another along the valley, from Balzers in the south to Ruggell in the north, so you can cross the country by bus in well under an hour. A first visit usually centres on Vaduz: the castle viewpoint, the Kunstmuseum, the National Museum and the prince's wine cellars. With more time, head up to Triesenberg and Malbun for mountain hiking, or walk sections of the 75 km Liechtenstein Trail, which links every municipality.

Prices are Swiss: expect around CHF 25 for a simple lunch and well over CHF 150 for a hotel double, so some visitors stay in Feldkirch or Buchs and come in by bus. There is no airport and only a handful of rail stops, but buses are frequent and distances short. It is orderly and very quiet; nightlife is minimal and Sundays are hushed. The surprise is how much walking there is, from hut-to-hut routes and exposed ridge paths to gentle strolls along the Rhine dam. It suits hikers, micro-state collectors and anyone combining it with eastern Switzerland or Austria's Vorarlberg.

Top 5 highlights

- 1

HISTORY

Vaduz Castle

The prince's castle, with origins in the 12th century, perches on a ledge high above Vaduz. It is a private residence, so admire it from outside: a footpath climbs from the Städtle in about 20 minutes, with sweeping views over the Rhine valley.
- 2

ADVENTURE

Fürstensteig

Opened in 1898, this exposed path is cut into the cliffs from Gaflei, above Triesenberg, along the ridge towards the Drei Schwestern peaks, with fixed cables on the steepest sections. Sure-footed hikers get a day of tremendous views over the Rhine.

3

CULTURE

Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein

The national art museum, a sleek black cube in central Vaduz, shows modern and contemporary art from its own collection, while the adjoining Hilti Art Foundation adds classic modern painting and sculpture.

4

NATURE

Malbun

Liechtenstein's only ski resort, at about 1,600 m, is a small, family-friendly cluster of lifts and chalets. In summer the Sareis chairlift lifts hikers to ridge paths along the Austrian border, with wildflowers and wide Alpine views.

5

ARCHITECTURE

Gutenberg Castle

Rising from a rocky knoll above Balzers, this medieval castle was rebuilt in the early 20th century and is now owned by the state. The walk around its base and the vineyards below is lovely; the interior opens mainly for events and tours.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Schaan

≈ 6,300 people

The largest municipality is a working town and the country's transport hub, with the main rail stop and bus interchange; hotels here can be cheaper than in Vaduz.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Vaduz

≈ 6,100 people

The capital's pedestrianised Städtle packs in the Kunstmuseum, the National Museum, the Postage Stamp Museum and the tourist office, with a steep path up to the castle viewpoint.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Triesen

≈ 5,800 people

A residential village south of Vaduz with a well-kept old centre, the hillside chapel of St Mamerten and trailheads into the mountains above.

Liechtenstein's 11 municipalities are villages rather than cities; figures are rounded official estimates for the end of 2025, when Schaan narrowly outnumbered Vaduz.

When to go to Liechtenstein

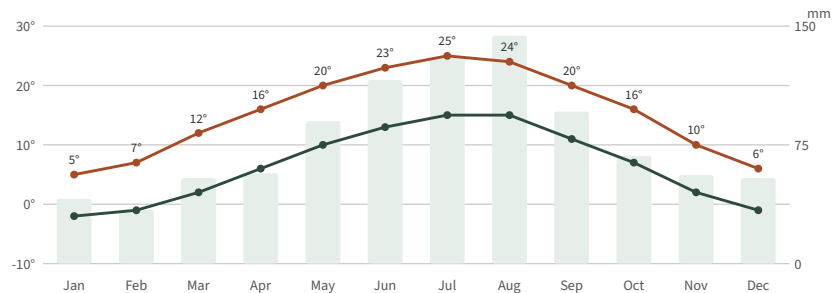
Best time: **Jun–Sep**.



■ Best
 ■ Good
 ■ Mixed
 ■ Poor

Average climate in Vaduz

— High °C
 — Low °C
 ■ Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Feb–Mar	Funkensonntag On the first Sunday of Lent, villages build towering wooden bonfires topped with a witch figure and set them alight at dusk to drive out winter, with fried pastries handed round.
Aug	National Day (Staatsfeiertag) On 15 August a ceremony on the meadow below Vaduz Castle is followed by drinks in the castle gardens hosted by the princely family, a street festival in Vaduz and fireworks.

How much does Liechtenstein cost?

SHOESTRING £95 per person / day ≈ CHF 105 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £190 per person / day ≈ CHF 210 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £360 per person / day ≈ CHF 397 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

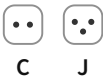
Käsknöpfle Small, chewy flour dumplings layered with sharp local cheese and topped with crisp fried onions, traditionally eaten with apple sauce or potato salad.	Ribel Coarse cornmeal soaked in milk and water, then fried slowly into buttery crumbs; once a farmers' staple, eaten with coffee, cheese or apple purée.	Hafalaab A hearty soup of smoked ham or bacon with dumplings made from maize and wheat flour, a traditional cold-weather dish.
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Getting around

Most visitors arrive by train at Sargans or Buchs in Switzerland, or Feldkirch in Austria, and continue on frequent LIEmobil buses; Buchs to Vaduz takes about 15 minutes. Buses also climb to Triesenberg and Malbun. A few regional trains stop at Schaan-Vaduz and Nendeln. Distances are tiny, so cycling along the Rhine dam is popular, and there are no border controls with Switzerland.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE



230V — bring a UK-to-C/J adapter

DIALLING CODE

+423

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire: **118**

Police: **117**

Ambulance: **144**

Source: FCDO “Getting help”

TIME ZONE

UTC+1 (standard time)

DRIVING

On the right

TIPPING

Service is included in prices; rounding up the bill or adding 5–10% for good restaurant service is customary but not obligatory.

ETIQUETTE

Greet shop staff and fellow hikers with 'Grüezi' or the more casual 'Hoi'. Punctuality matters, Sundays are quiet days, and noise late at night in residential areas is frowned upon.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Zurich Airport (ZRH), Zurich — across the border; St. Gallen–Altenrhein Airport (ACH), Altenrhein — across the border

Visas & entry for Liechtenstein

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Liechtenstein, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

The requirements for working in Liechtenstein are different.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Bat Lyssavirus

Tick-borne encephalitis

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Liechtenstein

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Sun 1 Nov 2026	All Saints' Day
Tue 8 Dec 2026	Immaculate Conception
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Sat 26 Dec 2026	Saint Stephen's Day

Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Wed 6 Jan 2027	Epiphany
Tue 2 Feb 2027	Candlemas
Fri 19 Mar 2027	Saint Joseph's Day
Sun 28 Mar 2027	Easter Sunday
Mon 29 Mar 2027	Easter Monday
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Thu 6 May 2027	Ascension Day
Sun 16 May 2027	Pentecost
Mon 17 May 2027	Pentecost Monday
Thu 27 May 2027	Corpus Christi
Sun 15 Aug 2027	National Day
Wed 8 Sep 2027	Nativity of Mary

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in German

ENGLISH	GERMAN	SAY IT
Hello	Guten Tag	<i>GOO-ten tahk</i>
Thank you	Danke	<i>DAHN-keh</i>
Please	Bitte	<i>BIT-teh</i>
Excuse me	Entschuldigung	<i>ent-SHOOL-dee-goong</i>
How much is this?	Wie viel kostet das?	<i>vee feel KOS-tet dahs</i>

Know before you go

Prices are in Swiss francs; euros are widely accepted, but change usually comes back in francs at a poor rate, so pay by card where you can.

The national tourist office on Vaduz's Städtle will put a souvenir stamp in your passport for a small fee, the nearest thing to a border formality here.

Higher mountain trails are usually snow-free from June to October; check hut opening dates and take the bus up to Gaflei or Malbun to start high.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.