

# LAUSANNE



Lausanne, the second-largest city on Lake Geneva, combines a dynamic commercial town with the locality of a holiday resort. The capital of the canton of Vaud is also a lively university and convention town. Sports and culture are given a high profile in the Olympic capital.

The setting of Lausanne is extremely picturesque: it is hardly surprising that the International Olympic Committee has been based here since 1914. The town is built on three hills, surrounded by vineyard-covered slopes, with Lake Geneva at its feet. Rising impressively from the opposing French lakeshore are the Savoy Alps. The attractive old town is largely car-free. Small alleyways with cafes and boutiques shape the streetscape in the medieval city centre.

The old town is dominated by the cathedral, which is regarded as Switzerland's most impressive piece of early Gothic architecture. Lausanne was a diocesan town for over a thousand years. Shopping streets can be found surrounding the cathedral as well as in the pretty waterfront area of Ouchy. Switzerland's only «metro» connects the various parts of the town and eases travel in this incline-based town.

Also worthy of a visit are the parks, containing many Mediterranean plant species, and grand palace hotels like the Beau-Rivage Palace in Ouchy and the Hotel de l'Angleterre, where Lord Byron once stayed. Gourmets will be able to savour many regional specialties in Lausanne such as cabbage-filled sausage with leek gratin called "Papet Vaudois". Mind you, master chef Fredy Girardet who was voted «Cuisinier du siècle» or chef of the century by his colleagues has in the meantime retired and handed over his scepter in the Hôtel de Ville to his successor.

Even lovers of culture won't feel short-changed in Lausanne: the collection of marginal art ("Art Brut") in Beaulieu Castle, the Fondation de l'Hermitage, the «Musée de l'Elysée» photo museum, and many others merit a visit. The offering of theatre productions and musical performances too is above average. Finally, Lausanne is home to the world-famous Béjart Ballet.

The «Olympic capital» is home to the Olympic Committee and also the Olympic Museum, the world's largest information centre about the Olympic games. But sport in general is given a high profile here, examples of which are the «Lausanne Marathon» and «Athletissima», the international meeting for track and field athletics.



## GENERAL INFO:

**Population:** 129,902 inhabitants

**Language spoken:** French

## HOW TO GET THERE:

- Geneva Airport - Various trains per hour, transfer time is less than an hour, [www.gva.ch](http://www.gva.ch)
- Zurich Airport - Various trains per hour, transfer time is around 2 hours and 30 minutes, [www.flughafen-zuerich.ch](http://www.flughafen-zuerich.ch)
- EuroAirport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg - Various trains per hour, transfer time is around 2 hours and 40 minutes, [www.euroairport.com](http://www.euroairport.com)
- Lausanne Tourisme, Avenue de Rhodanie 2 1000 Lausanne T +41 (0)21 613 73 73 F +41 (0)21 616 86 47 [info@lausanne-tourisme.ch](mailto:info@lausanne-tourisme.ch) <http://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch>

## OPENING HOURS:

- Shops/shopping Monday - Friday: 8 am / 8.45 am - 6.30 pm / 7pm Saturday: 8 am / 8.45 am - 5 pm / 6 pm
- Banks and currency exchange Monday - Friday: Banks: 9 am - 12 noon / 2 pm - 5 pm / Currency exchange: 8 am - 6 pm Thursday until 8.30 pm Saturday: Banks closed / Currency exchange: 8 am - 6 pm
- Public authorities and offices Monday - Friday: 07.30 am - 11.30 am / 1 pm - 5 pm Saturday: closed
- Lausanne on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KToEg4XUq18>

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Lausanne old town with cathedral** – the impressive cathedral is surrounded by beautiful, car-free roads. Since 1405 a watch in the clock tower makes sure there is no fire and shouts out the hours from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
*Cathédrale de Lausanne · Pl.de la Cathédrale 13 · 1005 Lausanne · T +41 (0)21 316 71 61 · F +41 (0)21 316 71 60 · [info@lausanne-tourisme.ch](mailto:info@lausanne-tourisme.ch) · [www.lausanne-tourisme.ch](http://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch)*
- **Olympic Museum** – provides an overview of the history of the Olympic games, from the first 1896 summer games in Athens through to the present day.  
*Quai d'Ouchy 1 · 1006 Lausanne · T +41 (0)21 621 65 11 · F +41 (0)21 621 65 12 · [info.museum@olympic.org](mailto:info.museum@olympic.org) · [www.olympic.org/musee](http://www.olympic.org/musee)*
- **Lake Geneva cruise** – paddlewheel steamers and motor vessels highlight the attractions of the Lake Geneva region as seen from the water.
- **Musee de l'Art brut** – a unique, worldwide collection of works of art created by outsiders in psychiatric clinics and prisons.  
*Avenue des Bergières 11 · 1004 Lausanne · T +41 (0)21 315 25 70 · F +41 (0)21 315 25 71 · [art.brut@lausanne.ch](mailto:art.brut@lausanne.ch) · [www.artbrut.ch](http://www.artbrut.ch)*
- **Fondation de l'Hermitage** – the foundation presents changing art exhibitions of the highest calibre in a magnificent setting dating from the 19th century.
- *Route du Signal 2 · 1018 Lausanne · T +41 (0)21 312 50 13 · F +41 (0)21 320 50 71 · [info@fondation-hermitage.ch](mailto:info@fondation-hermitage.ch) · [www.fondation-hermitage.ch](http://www.fondation-hermitage.ch)*
- **Train des vignes** – leisurely train journey onboard the «Train of Vines» from Vevey to Chexbres through the winegrowing region of the Lavaux, high above Lake Geneva.



- **RESTAURANTS**

- **Brasserie de Montbenon**

Opened at the end of 2014, this stylish brasserie occupies a prime location on the classy (and grassy) Montbenon park, a favourite Lausanne strolling and lounging spot since the 19th century

*Allée Ernest Ansermet 3, 1003 Lausanne, T +41 (0)21 320 40 30, [www.brasseriademontbenon.ch](http://www.brasseriademontbenon.ch)*

- **Anne-Sophie Pic**

Discover the fine dining style of France's first female chef to be awarded three Michelin stars. Pic creates imaginative, beautifully presented dishes that have earned the restaurant two Michelin stars and 18 Gault Millau points

*Beau Rivage Palace, Chemin de Beau-Rivage 21, 1006 Lausanne Tel +41 (0)21 613 33 39, [www.anne-sophie-pic.com](http://www.anne-sophie-pic.com)*

- **Café Romand**

This traditional Swiss brasserie has been serving up specialities from French-speaking Switzerland in its wood-panelled interior since 1951. All this practice means Café Romand is one of the best places in town to try local dishes, such as a platter of dried meats, cheeses and gherkins from canton Valais.

*Place Saint-François 2, 1003 Lausanne, T +41 (0)21 312 63 75, [www.cafe-romand.ch](http://www.cafe-romand.ch)*

- **Pinte Besson**

This tall, narrow building sitting rather incongruously on the end of one of Lausanne's scruffiest streets claims to be the oldest pub in Lausanne, and was set up by a wine merchant in 1780.

*Rue de l'Ale 4, 1003 Lausanne, T +41 (0)21 312 59 69, [www.pinte-besson.com](http://www.pinte-besson.com)*

## SHOPPING

- **Flon area**

Flon is the heart of the city of Lausanne, pulsing with life, day and night, in a modern and innovative setting. Flon is a unique district, covering 55,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the centre of Lausanne which belongs to a single owner. Open, welcoming and lively 24 hours a day, Flon's wealth of retail facilities and its evening and night-time activities are there to be enjoyed by the people of Lausanne and visitors.

- **Markets in Lausanne**

There are many weekly and seasonal markets in Lausanne. The Lausanne City Centre has weekly markets selling fresh local produce and regional specialities on Wednesdays and Saturdays. On Mondays and Thursdays there is another food market on Boulevard de Grancy. On Thursdays a flea market takes places in Place Chauderon and a second-hand market takes place at Place de la Riponne. On the first Friday of each month, check out the crafts market at Place de la Palud. From April to September there is also a Sunday market in Ouchy.