

Emergency Number: +49-(0)7531 - 81 99 3-53

## ► Cycling stage Zurich - Lachen approx. 40 km



### Attractions along the route

#### Description of the tour

You will spend the whole day today along Lake Zurich. In Zurich you will cycle along the right hand bank of the Limmat and from here will have your first views of the Lake. You have two options on the route to Rapperswil: you can follow along the regional road (Kantonsstraße 17) which will give you the opportunity to cycle along the lakeshore. Most of the road has a cycle lane and outside the villages and towns cyclists can also cycle on the footpath. Alternatively you can follow the signposted cycle path. This runs parallel to the road, but is further away from the Lake and at the start of the route it runs mainly through suburbs where the view of the Lake is mostly obscured by houses. Sometimes you will notice the proximity of the Pfannenstiel ridge. The ridge between Lake Zurich and Greifensee is a popular natural region in the Canton of Zurich and its sunny western flanks are full of vineyards. The foothills of the Pfannenstiel ridge are responsible for a few short but intensive climbs. Both routes run along the northern shore of Lake Zurich which is known as the "Gold Coast." In Rapperswil you will cross over the lake dam to the southern shores and you will cycle on the last few kilometres to Lachen.

#### Lake Zurich

Lake Zurich is one of the largest lakes in Switzerland and is located southeast of Zurich. The main feeder river is the Linth, which leaves the Lake near Zurich as the Limmat. Together with the Upper Lake, as the part of the Lake west of Rapperswil is called, Lake Zurich is about 42 km long and between Stäfa and Richterswil it reaches its broadest at almost 4 km width. The Lake has the form of a banana as the Lake is forced into this form between Schmerikon and Zurich by the surrounding mountains.

Lake Zurich, especially in good weather, is a popular recreational area. Walkers stroll along the lakeside promenade, the lake swimming areas are full and swimmers, sailors and the ZSG ferries share the waters. The oldest ZSG ferries in operation offer guests a great experience. Both paddle-steamers Zurich city and Rapperswil city have been in use for the past 100 years on the route between Rapperswil and Zurich.

The good quality of life in Zurich is due mainly to the Lake. The right hand shore is one of the most sought after areas to live in. The name "Gold Coast" is due to the high property prices in the area but also due to its geographical location. Whi-

le large parts of the surrounding area are shadowed in the evenings by the nearby mountains, the impressive villas of the "Gold Coast" are bathed in golden evening light. The opposite left hand shore is known jokingly as the "Flu Coast". The shore is in shadow from early in the day and is thought to lead to more colds. Alternatively the shore is known also as the steel coast, as in contrast to the Gold Coast more industry and trade settled on this side of the Lake.

The Lake also has two islands near Rapperswil: Ufenau and Lützelau. Die island of Lützelau can be reached by island taxi from Rapperswil and you can camp on the island's camp site. Ufenau is the largest island in Switzerland and is part of the Einsiedeln Monastery. Even during Roman times a temple was here and in the following centuries St. Martin's Chapel and the Church of St. Peter and Paul were built here.



#### Zürichsee Tourismus

Hintergasse 16  
8640 Rapperswil

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[www.zuerichsee.ch](http://www.zuerichsee.ch)




## Rapperswil

Rapperswil is picturesquely situated on the narrowest point of Lake Zurich and has a population of approximately 7500. The artificial causeway connects Rapperswil with the other shore of the Lake and with Pfäffikon. The causeway, along with the Hurden Peninsula separates the Upper Lake from the main part of Lake Zurich. After the Würm Glaciation the Linth Glacier left behind a moraine which today forms the Hurden Peninsula. The Romans even used the peninsula as a trading point. From the 9th century there was a ferry connection between Kempraten and Hurden which was used by the many pilgrims from Southern Germany on their way to the Einsiedeln Monastery and the crossing between Rapperswil and Pfäffikon gained inter-regional importance. In the 14th century Rudolf IV of Austria built a 1,859 steps long wooden bridge.

In 1875 construction on the modern causeway began and the old wooden bridge was torn down. In the middle of the 20th century the causeway was reinforced in order to deal with increased traffic on it. Since 2001, pedestrians have been able to walk along the over 841 metre long new wooden walkway. As part of the Swabian Way, which connects the German speaking countries with the French route of the Camino de Santiago, the new walkway was opened and blessed by the Abbot of the Einseideln Monastery. The pilgrim church Heilig Hüsl is the last remains of the old wooden walkway. Rapperswil is known as the Town of Roses. As early as 1913 the first rose gardens were planted around the harbour area and in the 1920's the roses extended from here to other streets and squares. In the following decades rose gardens spread

throughout the town for example in the former orchard of the Capuchin Monastery. The rose garden for the blind opened in Rapperswil in 1984. Over 1500 rose plants with 75 different scents tempt visitors to stroll around, relax and take in the heavenly smells. In the Old Town numerous small lanes and sunny squares are perfect for strolling through or taking a break. Rapperswil Castle and the neighbouring Church of St. Johann tower over the Old Town. At Fischmarkt the town opens out onto the Lake. Up until the 19th century the medieval walled inner harbour was located here. It was demolished along with most of the town walls to construct the market square with guesthouses for the many tourists.

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## Attractions in Rapperswil

### Rapperswil Castle

The castle dominates the sky line of the old town of Rapperswil and towers above Lake Zurich. The fortress was built between 1220 and 1230 by Reeve Rudolf von Rapperswil. After the castle and town were destroyed by troops from Zurich in 1350, the new owner, Albrecht II of Austria renovated the castle and it attained its current look. The castle takes the form of an almost equilateral triangle, the corners of which are fortified with a tower. The pentagonal clock tower to the south east is an unusual sight. The castle houses a restaurant and a Polish museum.

### Knie's Children's Zoo

Oberseestrasse  
8640 Rapperswil

Tel: +41 (0)55 - 220 67 67  
[www.knieskinderzoo.ch](http://www.knieskinderzoo.ch)

Opening Hours :  
March - October 09.00 - 18.00 h

The traditional Circus Knie has always over-wintered in Rapperswil since its foundation in 1919. In 1962 Knie's Children's Zoo was also opened here. The zoo focuses on the encounter between human and animal. About 300 animals from around 40 species are on show from field mice to meerkats and elephants and flamingos.

### Polish Museum

Tel: +41 (0)55 - 210 18 62  
[www.muzeum-polskie.org](http://www.muzeum-polskie.org)

Opening Hours:  
April - October 13.00 - 17.00 h

The Polish Museum in Rapperswil looks back on a 140 year tradition. In 1870 a Polish National museum was founded by refugees and exiled Polish in Rapperswil castle. The kingdom of Poland was divided between and annexed by Prussia, Austria and Russia. In 1927 the museum's collection left Switzerland and was transported in 13 wagons to Warsaw. Most of this collection was destroyed in the Second World War during the destruction of Warsaw. Between 1937 and 1951 Rapperswil Castle housed a modern Polish museum, before the current museum was opened in 1975. Today the exhibitions include Swiss-Polish relations, emigration, the Solidarność movement and well-known personalities such as Pope John Paul II, Marie Curie and Nikolaus Kopernikus.

### Circus Museum

Fischmarktplatz 1  
8640 Rapperswil

Tel: +41 (0)55 - 220 57 57

Opening Hours:  
April, May, June 10.00 - 18.00 h  
July, August 10.00 - 19.00 h  
September, October 10.00 - 18.00 h

The latest attraction in Rapperswil is the Circus museum near the harbour. The museum shows the connections between the Knie Circus and the town where it over-winters: Rapperswil. Here you can view amazing costumes, old posters, rare props and videos in a circus-like atmosphere. The museum also informs guests in relation to the history of circuses in Europe and animal training.



### Tourist Information

Fischmarktplatz 1  
8640 Rapperswil  
Tel: +41 (0)55 - 220 57 57  
[www.rapperswil-jona.ch](http://www.rapperswil-jona.ch)



## Lachen

Lachen is situated in the Canton of Schwyz on the southern shores of the Upper Lake. Its name is thought to originate from the Latin ad lacum, which means "on the Lake". Lachen has a population of about 7500 and enjoys a beautiful view of Lake Zurich and the Pfannenstiel Mountain. The most striking building in Lachen is the Church of the Holy Cross (Pfarrkirche Heiligkreuz) with its two onion domes and location near the Lake. The Late Baroque style building was designed by the brothers Peter and Gabriel Thumb from the Bregenz Forest. The Church was the first work of the 26 year old Peter Thumb, whose father Thumb was a famous ba-

roque builder and designer and whose buildings include the pilgrim church of Ellwangen-Schönenberg. The church was constructed between 1707 and 1711 and replaced the old church which had stood on the site since 1570. The poor quality of the site led to the building becoming unstable and it had to be replaced. In the following decades, Peter Thumb came to be the leading architect in Southern Germany and designed the pilgrim church of Birnau on Lake Constance. Evening is a perfect time for a swim in the Lake, as the sun appears to set into its waters.

### Pfarrkirche Heiligkreuz

Kirchweg 1  
8853 Lachen

Tel: +41 (0)55 - 451 04 70  
[www.kirchelachen.ch](http://www.kirchelachen.ch)



### Touristen-Informationsbüro Lachen

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