

Chur - the centre of mountain magic

With a settlement history of over 13,000 years, Chur is the oldest city in Switzerland, a fact that is impressively celebrated in its picturesque and winding old town. As the capital of the Grisons, the natural metropolis of the Alps and the hub of the Rhaetian Railway, Chur is the ideal starting point for unforgettable journeys of discovery.

Chur, the city on the Alpine Rhine and at the foot of imposing mountain peaks, is much more than just a stopover on what was once the most important north-south trade route. In this truly exceptional centre of mountain magic, visitors will find everything their heart desires: within the city there are numerous shops and boutiques as well as a wide range of cultural and gastronomic options, events and nature experiences, all set in a remarkable natural environment. Culture and culinary enthusiasts, railway fans, families, business guests and city travellers will all find Chur to be a unique and memorable destination.

Surrounding the city, the gentle slopes and sweet grapes of the Chur Rhine Valley, flanked by the majestic Grisons mountains, wait to be discovered; be it on foot, by bike, with snowshoes or on the legendary rail network. From Chur, the ideal starting point for the Rhaetian Railway, famous holiday destinations such as Davos, St. Moritz and Arosa can be reached, as well as the world-famous panoramic rail routes of the Bernina- and Glacier Express. Lenzerheide and other beautiful mountain villages are all within easy reach by postbus.

Chur is the only town in Switzerland with its own summer and winter sports area, Brambrüesch, which can be reached by cable car directly from the town centre. In winter it is a paradise for winter sports enthusiasts, and in summer it is ideal for beautiful walks or action-packed adventures.

The important episcopal city is both the centre of rhaeto-romanic Switzerland and the cultural capital of the Grisons. Archeological finds near the cathedral reveal traces of a settlement going back to 11,000 years B.C, while pottery and tools bear witness to a Roman military base. Whether in the archaeological excavation - protected by an intricate wooden structure by star architect Peter Zumthor - or in the Rhaetian Museum high above the old town, Chur has preserved its history and made it accessible. The Bündner Kunstmuseum and the Bündner Naturmuseum are two other exciting cantonal museums. All three are open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.

Chur also attracts shopping fans, as with over 500 shops it is the largest shopping centre between Zurich and Milan. The pedestrianised old town with its winding alleyways invites you to take a stroll through the many small shops selling local specialities, souvenirs and jewellery.

Gourmets appreciate the many cosy cafés and over 130 restaurants serving regional specialities such as Capuns, Maluns and Pizokel. As one of the warmest cities in Switzerland, Chur owes its mediterranean charm not least to its mild climate. As a result, Chur and the surrounding Rhine Valley produce excellent quality wine.

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