



Introduction: The Swiss Confederation was founded in 1291 as a defensive alliance among three cantons. In succeeding years, other cantons joined the original three. The Swiss Confederation secured its independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1499. A constitution of 1848, which was modified in 1874 to allow voters to introduce referenda on proposed laws, replaced the confederation with a centralized federal government. The major European powers have long honored Switzerland's sovereignty and neutrality, and the country was not involved in either World War. The political and economic integration of Europe over the past half-century, as well as Switzerland's role in many UN and international organizations, has strengthened Switzerland's ties with its neighbors. Switzerland remains active in many UN and international organizations but retains a strong commitment to neutrality. Switzerland is not a member of the EU.

Cultural Practices: Punctuality and discretion are valued traits in Switzerland. Swiss culture is known for its formality, efficiency, and respect for personal privacy. Swiss people tend to be polite, reserved, direct, and a little guarded at first. In Switzerland, it is customary to say goodbye personally to each guest or host.

Tipping Guidelines: A service charge is typically added at restaurants so no tipping is needed, but you can round up the bill for the wait staff. Round up a taxi fare or add 5%. Tipping is usually expected for hotel staff. A bellhop should receive 1-2 francs for each bag carried.

Climate: Temperate, but varies with altitude; cold, cloudy, rainy/snowy winters; cool to warm, cloudy, humid summers with occasional showers

Religion: Roman Catholic 34.4%, Protestant 22.5%, other Christian 5.7%, Muslim 5.4%, other 1.5%, none 29.4%, unspecified 1.1%

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General Facts:

Regional Division	Central Europe
Capital	Bern
Airport Code / Name:	ZRH / Zurich International
Country Code (2 digits / 3 digits)	CH / CHE
Population	8,860,574
Language	German (or Swiss German), French, Italian

Travel Facts:

Telephone Code	41
Local Emergency Phone	112 & 144
International Driving Permit	Suggested
Road Driving Side	Right
Time Zone / Time Difference	UTC +01:00
Currency / Exchange Rate \$->CHF	Swiss Franc (CHF) / 1\$: 0.92CHF
Electricity / Voltage / Plug Type(s)	230 V / 50 Hz / C, J
Passport / Visa Requirements	Yes / 90 days in 180 days
Working Permits for US Citizens	Necessary

Filming Incentives:

Film Commission National	20-40% cash rebate
Film Commission Federal	Yes
VFX Grant	No

Working Conditions:

Working hours per day	10 + break
Working hours per week	50
Working days per week	5
Overtime	+25%, +100%
Breaks	60 min after 5 th hour
Turnaround	11 hours
Fringes / self-employed	+26,45% social benefits, +8,33% holiday pay
Unions	No

Filming infrastructure:

Crews	internationally experienced, English speaking
Equipment	State-of-the-art equipment available
Studios in the following cities	Zurich, Geneva
Themed backlot sets include	-
Specials	-

Landscape & Architecture: snow-capped Mountainous regions (Alps, Jura), picturesque lakes, rivers, historic cities with medieval architecture, castles, churches, villages, and modern urban centers. Architectural styles range from medieval castles to Baroque and modern buildings.