

# SWITZERLAND

**SCHWEIZ** (GERMAN), **SUISSE** (FRENCH), **SVIZZERA** (ITALIAN), **SVIZRA** (ROMANSH),  
**CONFOEDERATIO HELVETICA** (LATIN)



- Landlocked country
- France to the west, Italy to the south, Austria & Liechtenstein to the east, Germany to the north
- Birthplace of the Red Cross (1863)
- History of armed neutrality (1815)
- 41,300 km<sup>2</sup>, 8.2 million people
- Bern, called Bundesstadt (federal city)
- 9 million foreign tourists



# TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

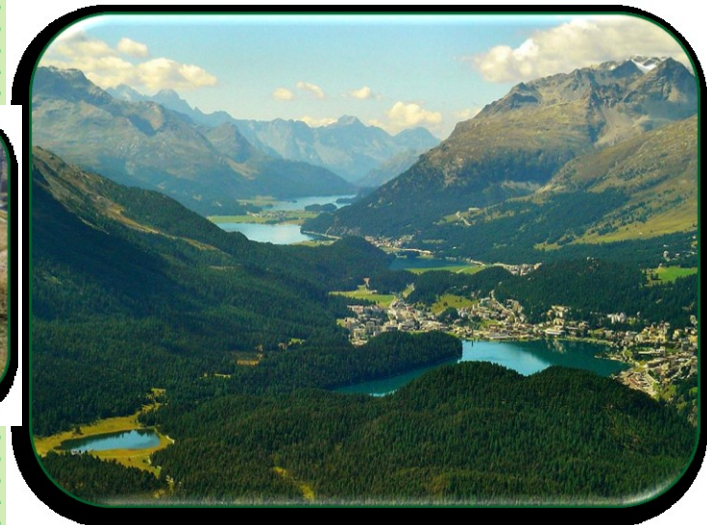
- Key feature – distinct cultural diversity
- Northeast – clean and correct, 8-to-5-working, firmer Swiss-German-speaking Switzerland
- Southwest – wine drinking and laissez-faire style known from the French
- Southeast (south of the Alps) – sun warms cappuccino-sippers strolling in Italian-style piazzas
- Centre – classic Swiss mountain landscape and alphorns
- Most obvious result of this variety – four official languages – German, French, Italian & Romansh





# NATURAL BEAUTIES

- Large part of the country – the Alps, app 100 peaks – close to or higher than 4,000 meters
- 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of glaciers and firn – Aletschgletscher (largest, 118 km<sup>2</sup>), numerous lakes
- Cave-like buildings in mountains to serve military purposes (hold arms & even fighter planes)



Matterhorn



Aletsch Glacier





# NATURAL BEAUTIES

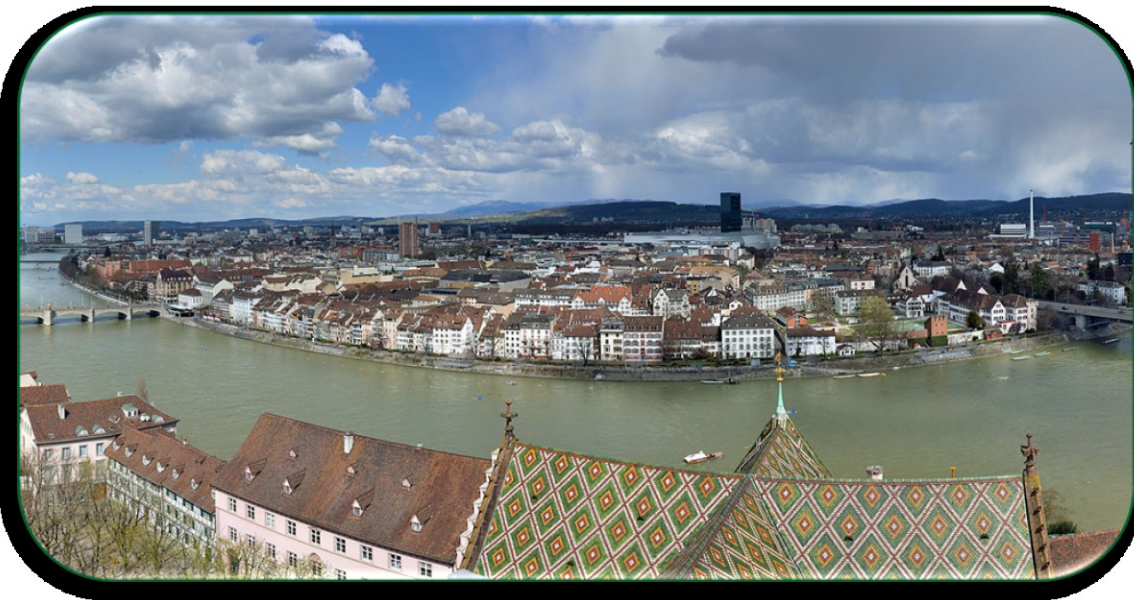
- Zermatt (starting point for Monte Rosa & Matterhorn), St Moritz (1928 & 1948 Winter Olympics)
- Interlaken – along Aare River (between Lakes Thun & Brienz)





# BASEL

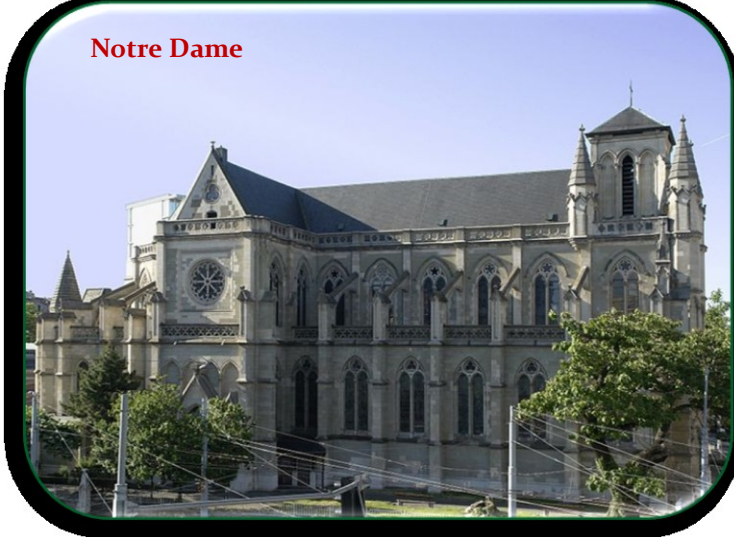
- Situated on Swiss, French & German border (suburbs in France & Germany)
- Red sandstone Romanesque Cathedral (Erasmus of Rotterdam buried)





# GENEVA

- Geneva – centre of French-speaking part of Switzerland (headquarters of United Nations & Red Cross)
- Notre-dame, Temple de la Madeleine archaeological site





# LOCARNO

- Italian-speaking part of the country, northern tip of Lake Maggiore at the foot of the Alps
- Sanctuary of Madonna del Sasso – pilgrimage site from 15 century
- Castello Visconteo – 12 century, part may have been designed by Leonardo da Vinci





# LUGANO

- Italian-speaking part of the country (nicknamed Monte Carlo of Switzerland)
- On Lake Lugano, surrounded by the Lugano Pre-Alps





# LUCERNE (LUZERN)

- German-speaking part in central Switzerland
- Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke) – wooden bridge, built 1333, oldest covered bridge in Europe





# AUGUSTA RAURICA

- First Roman settlement on the Rhine, founded 44 BC (about 20 km from Basel)
- Among most important archaeological sites in Switzerland, open-air museum





# CHATEAU DE CHILLON

- On narrow shore of Lake Geneva & access to Alpine valley of the Rhone
- Built to control the road from Burgundy to the Great Saint Bernard Pass in 1005





# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

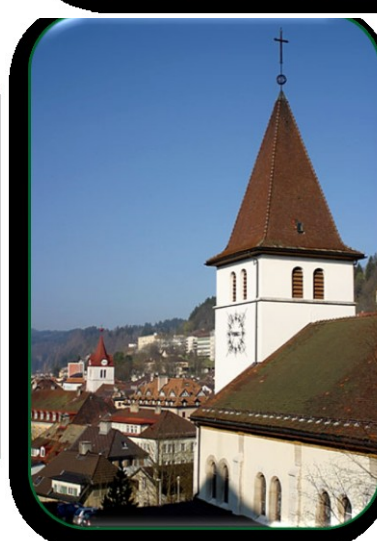
- Nine cultural sites, four natural sites
- Two transboundary with Italy, one with Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland & Slovenia





# LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS AND LE LOCLE, WATCHMAKING TOWN PLANNING

- Early 19 century to suit the needs of watchmaking (dedicated to single industry)
- Along parallel strips, housing & workshops intermingled (watchmaking culture dating to 17 c)
- Document transition from cottage industry to factory production of late 19 & 20 centuries





# LAVAUZ VINEYARD TERRACES

- 30 km along shores of Lake Geneva (from Chateau de Chillon to outskirts of Lausanne)
- Cover lower slopes of mountainside between villages & the lake (in continuous use & well maintained)
- 11 century, Benedictine & Cistercian monasteries





# OLD CITY OF BERNE

- On a hill surrounded by Aare River, 12. c (fountains, sandstone facades, narrow streets & historic towers)
- Lauben – 6 km of arcades (15c), one of longest covered shopping promenades in Europe
- Over 100 public fountains, 16c – 11 topped with statues (Justice, Messenger, Piper, Samson, Moses)
- Time Bell (Zytglogge, 1220s), Gothic Cathedral (Münster, 15c, tallest in Switzerland)
- Town Hall (15c), Federal Palace (Bundeshaus, 19c), Bear Garden (Bärengraben, heraldic animals of Bern)





# ABBHEY OF ST GALL

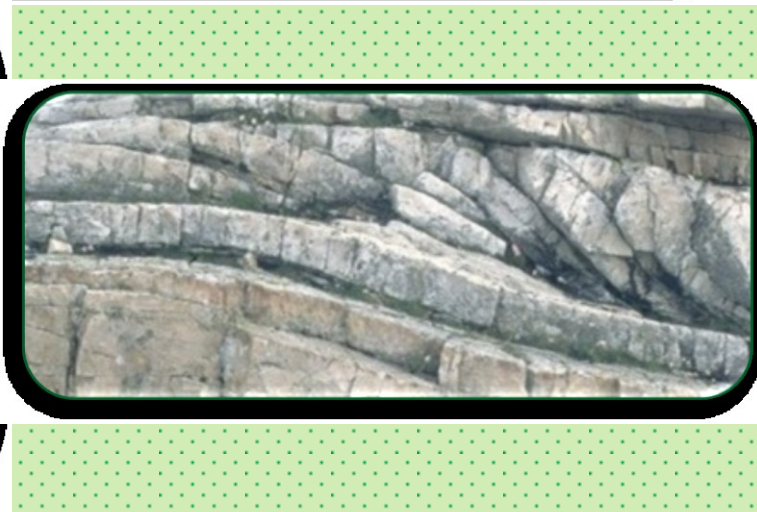
- Carolingian monastery – important cultural centre of Europe (from 8c to 1805 – secularization)
- Abbatial church (present cathedral), cloister housing Library (one of richest & oldest in the world)
- Almost all important architectural periods from High Middle Ages to historicism





# SWISS TECTONIC ARENA SARDONA

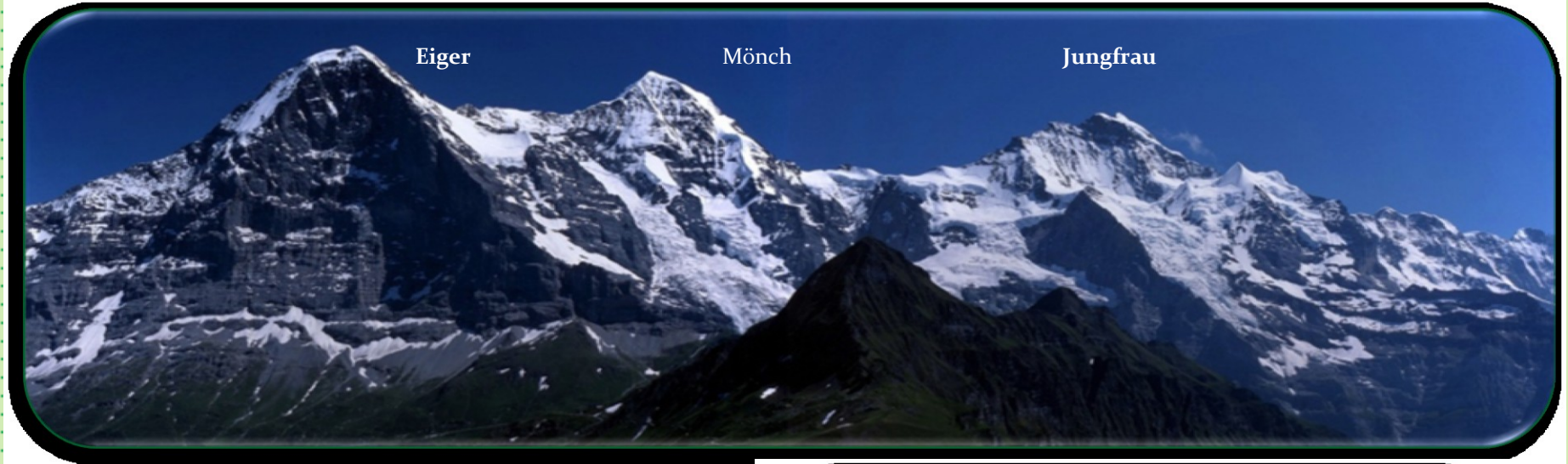
- Glarus Alps – glaciated mountains, 7 peaks above 3,000 m (north-eastern part of the country)
- Example of mountain building through continental collision
- Tectonic thrust (older, deeper rocks carried onto younger, shallower rocks)





# SWISS ALPS JUNGFRAU-ALETSCH

- Example of High Alps formation, centred on Eiger, Mönch & Jungfrau peaks
- Spectacular peaks, U-shaped glacial valleys, cirques, horn peaks, valley glaciers & moraines
- Most glaciated part of European Alps – Aletsch glacier (largest & longest in Europe)





# THREE CASTLES, DEFENSIVE WALL AND RAMPARTS OF THE MARKET-TOWN OF BELLINZONA

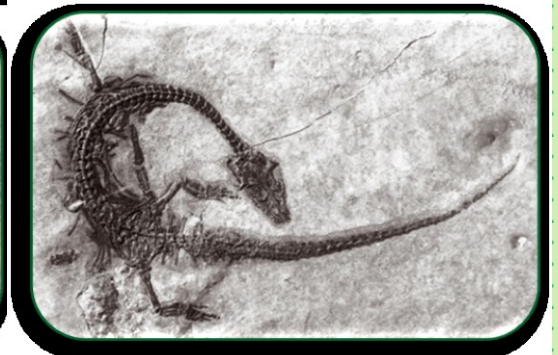
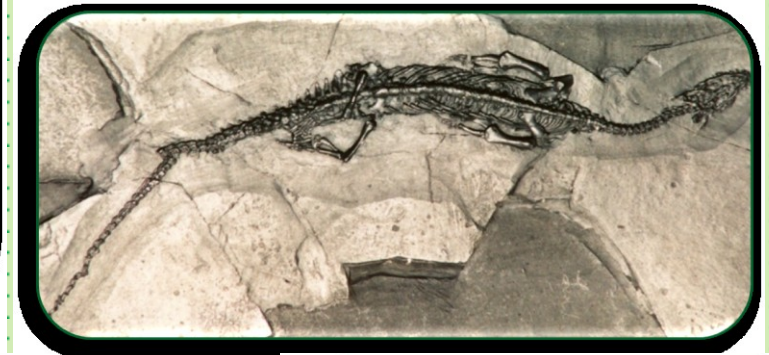
- Fortified walls & castles Castelgrande, Montebello & Sasso Corbano (around the town of Bellinzona)
- Castelgrande – on rocky peak overlooking the entire Ticino valley
- Fortified walls run from the Castle to Montebello (on rocky hilltop, integral part of fortifications)
- Sasso Corbaro – isolated rocky promontory, highest of the three castles





# MONTE SAN GIORGIO

- Pyramid-shaped wooded mountain beside Lake Lugano. (shared with Italy)
- Best fossil record of marine life & land-based fossils from Triassic Period (245-230 million years ago)
- Records life in tropical lagoon (reptiles, fish, bivalves, ammonites, crustaceans) (reptiles, insects, plants)





# RHAETIAN RAILWAY

- Brings together two historic railway lines that cross Swiss Alps through two passes
- Albula line – opened 1904, north-western part, 67 km long (Switzerland)
- Features 42 tunnels & covered galleries & 144 viaducts & bridges
- Bernina line – opened 1910, 61 km, features 13 tunnels & galleries & 52 viaducts & bridges (Italy)





# BENEDICTINE CONVENT OF ST JOHN AT MÜSTAIR

- Carolingian\* convent – founded around 775, probably on the orders of Charlemagne
- Saint Cross Church, residential tower, residence of bishop, two courtyards surrounded by cloisters, two entrance towers & agricultural buildings
- Greatest series of figurative murals (painted app 800 AD) & Romanesque frescoes & stuccoes



\*Frankish Empire, 780-900, reign of Charlemagne & his heirs



# PREHISTORIC PILE DWELLINGS AROUND THE ALPS

- Serial property of 111 small individual sites
- **Switzerland 56 sites**, Austria (5), France (11), Germany (18), Italy (19) & Slovenia (2)
- Remains of prehistoric pile-dwelling (stilt house) settlements
- Built from around 5000 to 500 BC on the edges of lakes, rivers & wetlands
- Well-preserved & culturally rich archaeological sites (study of early agrarian societies in the region)



- Original piles found in many Swiss lakes; reconstruction of a Neolithic dwelling in Neuchâtel



**THANK YOU FOR  
ATTENTION**