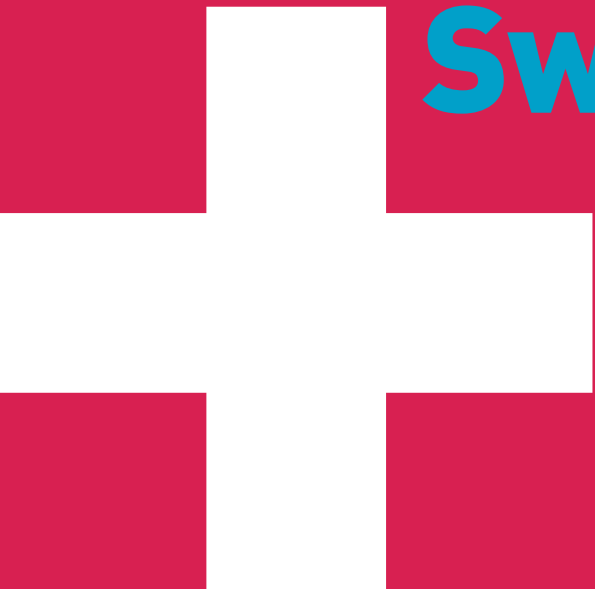


LIBERO

WOMEN'S EUROS 2025

Switzerland



BASEL
BERNE
GENEVA
LUCERNE
ST GALL
SION
THUN
ZÜRICH

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WOMEN'S EUROS 2025

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When **England's Lionesses** won the Women's Euros before a near 90,000 sell-out crowd at Wembley in July 2022, it not only attracted a global TV audience of 50 million watching the game live.

The two classic protagonists both saw a huge spike in domestic interest in the women's game, England and **Germany's** top leagues recording increases of 200%-plus in attendances. When the English FA announced a subsequent friendly match with USA, tickets sold out within 24 hours, the fastest for any game at Wembley, let alone any women's international.

And yet the same FA had come under justifiable criticism for staging a number of earlier games in the same 2022 tournament at grounds as modest as Leigh Sports Village and Manchester City's Academy Stadium.

Now, three years on, the women's Euros comes to **Switzerland**. Each of the **eight host cities** and their **stadiums** stage top-class football week in, week out, along with regular internationals and even the odd European final.

Naturally, each destination will have a fan zone – football hub and final host



Basel has two – with attractions to suit the scenic surroundings. Family-friendly fun across Switzerland will include a water park with a slide, football yoga and surfing, as well as DJs, live music and match screenings.

While this isn't Europe's cheapest getaway, costs can be offset by **free transport** – including national rail travel – on match days and nights. All

destinations are within easy reach of a **major international airport**, most facilitated with a direct rail link into town.

Stadiums average at 22,000 capacity, large enough for a real atmosphere, small enough for a perfect view of the action. Most were rebuilt for or around the same time as Euro 2008, the last time Switzerland (co-) hosted a major

tournament. The time before that, it was the high-scoring, high-drama 1954 World Cup – here's looking forward to more of the same this July.

GETTING HERE

Travel across Switzerland and venue cities is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. If you're getting the train on any

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The digital travel guide for football fans, **liberoguide.com** is the most up-to-date resource, city-by-city, club-by-club, to the game across Europe, North America and Australia/NZ. Using only original photos and first-hand research, taken and undertaken over five seasons, **liberoguide.com** has been put together to enhance every football weekend and Euro night experience. From airport to arena, downtown sports bar to hotel, **liberoguide.com** helps you get the best out of your visit to football's furthest corners and showcase stadiums.

other day, look out for Supersaver tickets when you peruse the schedule on the **SBB Swiss Rail website** (sbb.ch/en) – you can save at least 30% off full price by travelling by a specific service, booked ahead of time. If you're making a real holiday of it, check out the various passes offered by SBB – search for the **SBB Mobile app** on Android and iOS.

City transport is excellent and may even involve boats. The Swiss are also keen cyclists, served by dedicated lanes and routes in all major cities. ➔

WOMEN'S EUROS 2025

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GETTING IN

At press time, **tickets** were still available for all games, including the final in Basel on July 27. Purchase through the dedicated **UEFA page** (uefa.com/womenseuro/ticketing). Most group games and quarter-finals are priced at SF25/SF40, the semi-finals are SF25-SF70 and the final, SF30-SF90. There are also **hospitality packages** (uefa.com/womenseuro/ticketing/hospitality/matches) – for

England v Holland in Zürich in July 9, an all-you-can-eat/drink deal, plus a Category 1 seat, works out at SF490.

The two kick-off times are at **6pm** and **9pm CET**, ie 1hr ahead of UK time. The **16 teams** are play in the classic format of four groups of four, with the two top qualifying for the quarter-finals. If teams are level on points, then matches between them decide who goes through, including goal

difference and goals scored if need be. In the knock-out stage, it's extra-time then good old penalties. There's no third-place play-off.

TIPS & TRICKS

While Switzerland isn't part of the EU, it does operate within the **Schengen zone**, meaning that there shouldn't be passport checks if coming from another Schengen country. If coming directly from Britain, UK citizens



should ensure that their **passports** are valid for at least three months after their intended departure date from Switzerland.

EU roaming agreements do **NOT** apply to Switzerland – and WiFi isn't always a given either, despite what is suggested when travelling by Swiss Rail. Local provider **Swisscom** currently has an offer of SF20 for seven days of unlimited data with a pre-paid SIM or eSIM card – see [Swisscom](https://swisscom.ch/en/residential/mobile-subscription/prepaid/tourists.html) for details swisscom.ch/en/residential/mobile-subscription/prepaid/tourists.html – or their **stores** can found in prominent locations in all major Swiss cities.

Swiss beer (about SF6/€6) is strong and Swiss summers are hot, so drink sensibly, no matter how much fun you're having. **Grilled sausages** go hand in hand with football-watching



in these parts, but most stadiums should also offer vegetarian snacks, too. While restaurants are pricy, many offer lunchtime deals and if you're on a real budget, supermarket chain **Migros** dishes out free disposable knives and forks for your takeaway salad or pasta dish. [LE](#)

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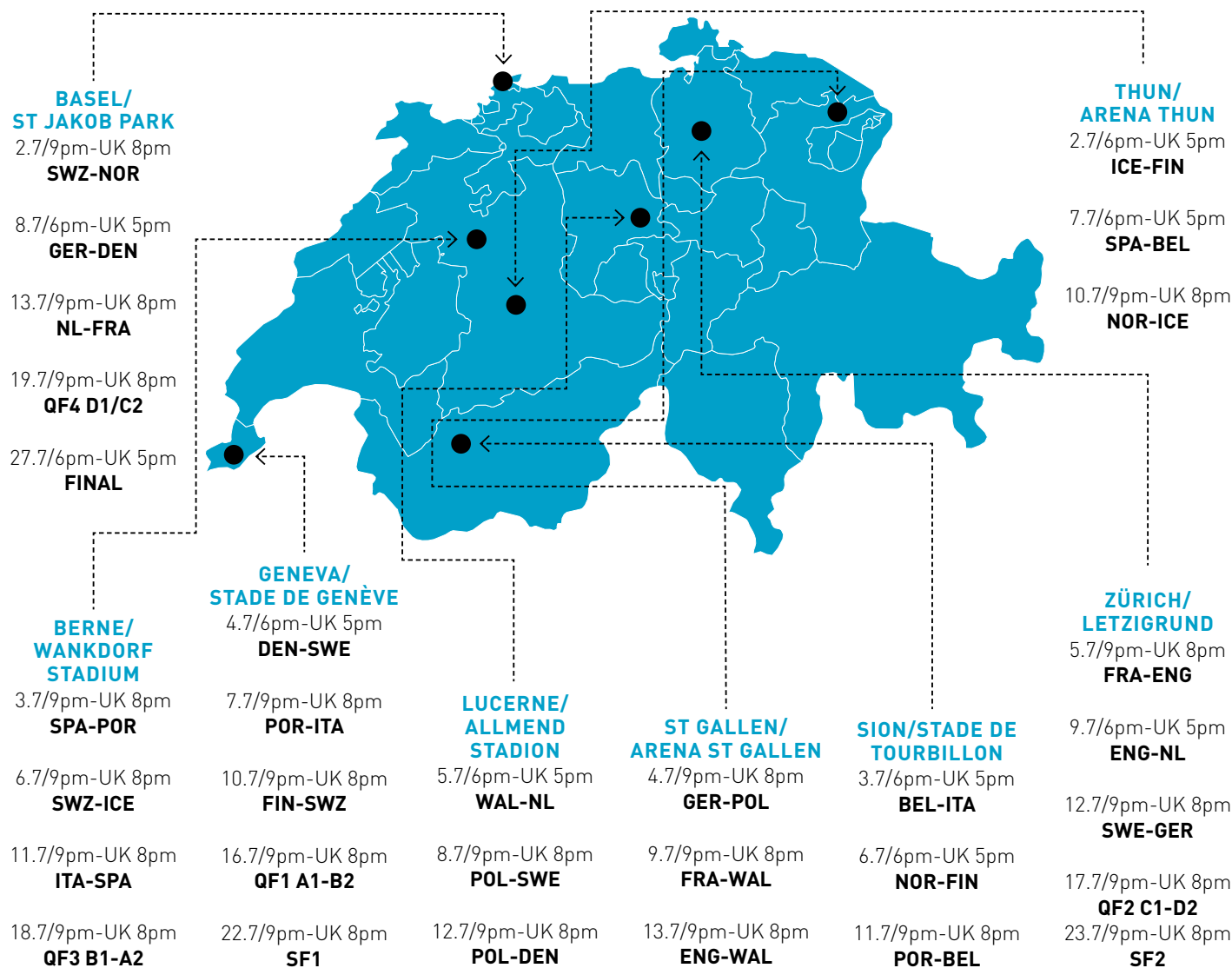
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GROUP A

- A1** Switzerland (SWZ)
A2 Norway (NOR)
A3 Iceland (ICE)
A4 Finland (FIN)

GROUP B

- B1** Spain (SPA)
B2 Portugal (POR)
B3 Belgium (BEL)
B4 Italy (ITA)

GROUP C

- C1** Germany (GER)
C2 Poland (POL)
C3 Denmark (DEN)
C4 Sweden (SWE)

GROUP D

- D1** France (FRA)
D2 England (ENG)
D3 Wales (WAL)
D4 Netherlands (NL)

Basel may adjoin France and Germany but this Rhine river port is the hotbed of Swiss football. **St Jakob Park**, home of eight-time consecutive champions **FC Basel** and stage for the 2025 Women's Euro Final, has the country's fieriest atmosphere.

The 'Joggeli' was rebuilt for Euro 2008, staging the opening match and dramatic semi-final, Germany's 3-2 win over Turkey. Four months later, Basel faced their historic cousins FC Barcelona here in the Champions League.

The two clubs were formed by the same man, Johannes ('Hans') Kamper, a young Swiss entrepreneur. On November 12, 1893, he saw an ad in the *National-Zeitung* asking to form a football club, FC Basel. Business then took Kamper to Spain, where he became Joan Gamper and founded FC Barcelona.

Basel also holds a special place in the history of the Swiss women's team – it was here, at the Stadion Rankhof, that they played their first official international, a 2-2 draw with France before a 4,500 crowd in May 1972.

As well as hosting five Euro games this July, Basel has two fan zones, on main hubs either side of the Rhine. Messeplatz features a water park with a slide, Barfüsserplatz top Swiss music acts and an open-air cinema.



GETTING AROUND

Basel Euro Airport is actually in France, 6km (4 miles) north-west of Basel. **Bus 50** (every 10mins) runs to main **Basel SBB** station (17min journey time). Across the Rhine, **Basel Bad** station is linked to the German rail network.

Travel across Switzerland and venue cities is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. Match-day shuttles, S-Bahns and trams run to the St Jakob south-east of town.

Taxi-Zentrale (+41 61 222 2222) offers airport transfers.

WHERE TO STAY

The **Basel Tourist Office** (basel.com) has a **hotel-booking service**.

Chain hotels sit near the station, contemporary **B&B** on St Jakobs-Straße, sleek **ibis Styles**, wallet-friendly **ibis Budget** and superior four-star **Novotel**, all on Großpeterstraße

Hotels surround Basel SBB station, classic spots like the **Euler**, the **Schweizerhof** and the **Victoria**. Closer to Basel Bad station and right by the fan zone on Messeplatz, the stylish **Basel Marriott** and urban **Pullman Basel Europe** cater to the business crowd, especially busy during trade fairs.



WHERE TO DRINK

Barfüsserplatz is dotted with restaurants and cafés – the timeless **Rio** (No.12) the best bar, the beerhall of **Zum Braunen Mutz** the best pub, with a bar area, too.

The best football bar in town, perhaps in Switzerland itself, the cultish **Didi Offensiv** on Erasmusplatz hosts quiz nights, screenings and literary events, its ironic name taken from defence-minded FCB coach Claude 'Didi' Andrey, nicknamed after the Brazilian legend.

Mainstream Swiss pub chain **Mr Pickwick** on bar-lined Steinenvorstadt also shows games, while nearby **Jerry's** is where the Swiss go to watch big matches.

The prominent Irish bar is long-established **Paddy Reilly's** on Steinentorstraße near the main station. Nearer Basel Bad station on the German network, **The Pub** on Clarastraße is a main football haunt by the Messeplatz fan zone, decked out in scarves, with a convivial terrace for warm summer evenings. 

ST JAKOB PARK

liberoguide.com/fc-basel

St Jakob Park, 'Joggeli', was built for the 1954 World Cup, witnessing 44 goals in six games. These included the hosts dumping Italy out of the competition, 4-1. The game established Joggeli's credentials as a real football ground, with crowd scenes never before seen in sleepy Switzerland.

Two miles south-east of Basel's city centre, today's 38,500-capacity **St Jakob Park** is part of a shopping complex, opposite a group of sports halls and pitches. One of them, the athletics ground, is where **FC Basel Frauen** play in the women's Swiss Super League.

By far the biggest stadium in the men's Swiss Super League, the main St Jakob is a late 1990s rebuild, inaugurated in 2001. Set beside a railway line and the St Alban stream, it allowed little room for expansion when Basel was awarded co-hosting rights for Euro 2008. The solution was to create an entirely new stadium. Carried out by Basel-based architects Herzog & De Meuron, of Tate Modern and Allianz Arena fame, reconstruction came at a cost of some SF220 million, which also funded a three-floor retail complex of some 30 shops.

While capacity for Euro 2008 was 42,500, seats were later removed to provide more spectator comfort.



Considering the huge numbers heading from Liverpool, the wisdom of holding the 2016 Europa League Final at such a relatively small arena was called into question. For Euro 2025, capacity has been set at 34,250, each seat expected to be taken for Switzerland's opening game

with Norway and, of course, the final itself on July 27.

The Joggeli comprises four stands, lettered A-D, A being the main stand with the best seats, and bars and restaurants behind it. Stands B and home end D are behind the goals.

For domestic fixtures, away fans are allocated sectors B1 and B2 between Stand A and B.

GETTING HERE

The St Jakob has its own **train station** behind Stand C. A special **match-day shuttle** will be running every 20mins

MATCHES

July 2, 9pm **Switzerland v Norway**
 July 8, 6pm **Germany v Denmark**
 July 13, 9pm **Holland v France**
 July 19, 9pm **QF – Winner Group D v Runner-up Group C**
 July 27, 6pm **FINAL**

from Basel SBB station from 3hrs before kick-off, journey time 5mins. If you've just missed one, **S-Bahn line 3** goes from the station to **Basel Dreispitz**, a 10min walk to the ground. Alternatively, **tram 14** (direction Pratteln) calls at **Barfüsserplatz** and **Messeplatz**, locations for the city's two fan zones, before dropping you right by Main Stand A.

WHERE TO DRINK

The only venue near the ground is the **Wirtshaus St Jakob** (St Jakobs-Straße 377), a traditional restaurant that has been serving guests since 1526. For each Euro match next door, they will be operating a pop-up garden, serving local Stadtmuer beer and grilled meats.

At the stadium, behind Stand A, the **Rotblau Bar-Bistro** is decorated with old sports cuttings, and tasteful football iconography. Grown-ups can lay into the Feldschlösschen beer while kids battle it out on the table football table. **LG**



Set in the middle of Switzerland, easily accessible from Basel and Zürich, the charming, cobbled national capital of **Berne** hosts four games at Euro 2025, including a quarter-final.

A regular venue for the Swiss Cup final, Berne's legendary **Wankdorf** is the home of **Young Boys**, Swiss champions six times since 2018, bringing the likes of Aston Villa, Manchester City and Manchester United here in the subsequent European campaigns.

Also based at the Wankdorf, the women's team, YB Frauen, recently recaptured the Swiss title after domestic

dominance in the late 1990s. Many dedicated the win to former YB captain Florijana Ismaili, an ever-present for the club for a decade until her tragic drowning in Lake Como in 2019.

For the Euros, a fan zone on Bundesplatz near Berne station runs for the duration of the tournament – around the Wankdorf, you'll only find festival halls, a shopping centre and a clutch of chain hotels.

GETTING AROUND

The nearest main airports are **Basel** 117km (73 miles) and **Zürich** 140km (87 miles) away. A direct train service runs from **Zürich airport** (1hr 25min) and **Basel SBB** (1hr) to Berne station, a



stroll to the city centre. The stadium is over the Aare river north-east of town.

Travel across Switzerland and venue cities is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. A train ticket from either Basel or Zürich should otherwise cost around SF30-40.

From Berne station, regular **S-Bahn** trains run to **Wankdorf** alongside the

stadium. **Taxi Bern Service** (+41 31 535 5555) offers airport transfers.

WHERE TO STAY

The **Berne Tourist Office** (bern.com) has a **hotel-booking service**. Near the stadium, by the Guisanplatz tram stop, three chain hotels in the Accor chain share the same complex, from the four-star, business-friendly **Novotel Bern Expo**, to the more wallet-friendly **ibis Bern Expo** and **ibis Budget Bern Expo**. Guests can

take advantage of the restaurant, bar and paid-for parking available.

Also in the vicinity of the stadium at Militärstraße 38, the **Hotel Jardin** is a traditional, mid-range lodging with its own restaurant.

In the Old Town, equally old-school hotels include the historic **Bern** at Zeughausgasse 9, the **Goldener Schlüssel** at Rathausgasse 72 and the prestigious **Schweizerhaus** opposite Berne station.

WHERE TO DRINK

Between Zytglogge and the river, **Rathausgasse** is lined with cellar bars, most only open after dark. Pick of the bunch is lively **Les Amis**, scheduling a month of events to celebrate its 30th anniversary this July. Over the street, the **Biercafé au Trappiste** offers six beers on tap, dozens by the bottle, and 30 Gueuze and Lambic varieties.

At the edge of the Old Town, **GOAL** at Junkerngasse 1 is a football bar with a YB bent, where matches are screened in a cellar that once hosted a Louis Armstrong aftershow in 1955.

Near the river on Speichergasse, music venue **PROGR Turnhalle** will be beaming live games on a huge screen during the Euros or you can watch matches in homely **McCarthy's** pub over the road. **LG**

WANKDORF STADIUM

liberoguide.com/young-boys

Outside the **Wankdorf** in **Berne** stands a reconstructed version of the famous Longines clock that timed matches here before its pre-Euro 2008 rebuild. The scoreline on it reads 'Ungarn 2 Deutschland 3'. The World Cup final of 1954, a shock German win over a previously unbeatable Hungary one wet July afternoon, changed football history.

Built in 1925, the then 22,000-capacity Wankdorf, named after this area of north-east Berne, was remodelled and expanded to hold 64,000 for the tournament. For the next major tournament here, Euro 2008, the old ground was knocked down in 2001 to make way for a high-tech, eco-friendly rebuild.

Opened in 2005, solar panels covering an artificial pitch and 32,000 seats, initially named Stade de Suisse staged all three of Holland's group games before a full house. The later re-named Wankdorf recently witnessed the revival of flagship club **Young Boys**, crowned champions in 2018 for the first time in 32 years – the first of six to follow up to 2024. As for the women's team, their recent championship success came 14 years after the previous win.

For the Euros, capacity is being capped at just below 30,000, around the same as the average gate for the



Young Boys men's team, the highest in the Swiss Super League.

For YB games, home fans gather behind the goal in the Ostkurve, away fans allocated B12-B15 in a corner of the opposite end. The best seats are accessed through the pedestrianised

square containing the Restaurant Eleven and YB fan shop.

GETTING HERE

Bern Wankdorf S-Bahn station is by the stadium, 5mins from Bern main station on lines S1, S2, S3, S4, S31 and S44. From there, it's five minutes'

walk to the stadium. Note that due to maintenance work on the tram line that used to carry the number 9 from nearby Guisanplatz into town, more people than usual are using this service, overcrowding leading to a serious incident at the station after the Swiss Cup final in June.

MATCHES

July 3, 9pm **Spain v Portugal**
 July 6, 9pm **Switzerland v Iceland**
 July 11, 9pm **Italy v Spain**
 July 18, 9pm **QF – Winner Group B v Runner-up Group A**

An alternative is to take bus 20 from stop E at Berne station, alighting at **Wyler**, even closer to the stadium.

WHERE TO DRINK

By the stadium on the pedestrianised concourse, **Eleven** is spacious enough to accommodate several hundred diners and drinkers, given its busy terrace and back dining room. The beer, Feldschlösschen, comes in Helvetic and Blaufrisch varieties (SF6).

The walls of the bar area are decked out in a black-and-white photographic history of Young Boys Berne, while the stadium is the focus of the vintage images displayed around the food court of the **Wankdorf Center** next door.

Outside, a stall dispenses local Felsenau (SF6) and grilled sausages (they'll ask if you want pork or beef) – pay at the till by the beer tank and show your receipt to the server. Inside the ground, Gurten beer comes from the Feldschlösschen brewery. **LG**

The global city of **Geneva**, de facto capital of French-speaking Switzerland, is once more among the Swiss football elite thanks to **Servette** now challenging for the men's Swiss Super League title and the women being crowned national champions in 2021 and 2024.

While the women's achievements are a fairly recent phenomenon, the once dominant men's team has regained its elevated status after going out of business in 2005. Ironically, their downfall coincided with the opening of the new-build **Stade de Genève**, celebrated with a prestigious curtain-raiser between England and Argentina.

The stadium is south of town in Lancy, part of the suburban retail complex of La Praille, away from Geneva's lakeside attractions, luxury hotels and waterfront fan zone on quai Gustave Ador, where live acts and DJs will be performing by the ferry terminal.

GETTING AROUND

Geneva Airport is 4km (2.5 miles) north-west of the city. Regular **trains** run from the platform below the passenger terminal to **Cornavin station** (journey time 10mins).

Local transport consists of trams, buses and yellow boats, or mouettes, but for the stadium, you'll need to get a train from Cornavin to either **Lancy-Pont-Rouge** or **Lancy-Bachet**.

Travel across Switzerland and venue cities is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day.

Allo Taxi Genève (+41 79 966 68 52) offers airport transfers.

WHERE TO STAY

Geneva Tourism (geneve.com) has a **hotel database** and **click-through booking**.

Serving the Stade de Genève alongside, the **Ramada Encore by Wyndham Geneva** is a three-star business hotel with a restaurant and regular offers on room rates.

Facing the train station, hotels line place de Cornavin. The three-star **Hôtel Astoria Genève** houses the **Britannia Pub**, the **Hôtel les Arcades** has a winning breakfast while the modern rooms of the **Hôtel Suisse** sit behind an old-school façade. The sleek **Bernina** reopened during the pandemic as a three-star superior urban lodging.

For luxury and lakeside views, **The Ritz-Carlton Hôtel de la Paix** on quai du Mont-Blanc is all contemporary design and fine dining, though its heritage dates back to 1865. Further round the lake, the classic **Hôtel Mon Repos** has been in the same family since 1928.



WHERE TO DRINK

Geneva's pubs and bars appeal to an international crowd, many showing live sport. An ideal place to start is **Pâquis**, between the station and the lake.

On place de Cornavin itself, the **Britannia Pub** has been pulling pints at the Hôtel Astoria since 1972. Close

by on rue du Fribourg, **The Crowned Eagle** opened in 2018 and was quickly established as a friendly, football-watching local. Pool and live music also feature.

Nearer the lake, the **Grand Duke Pub** on rue du Monthoux lines its curved bar with beer taps, TV screens and

football scarves. On the other side of main rue de Chantepoulet, Irish-owned **Mulligans** on rue de Grenus is another expat stalwart for Guinness and TV sport.

You'll find the Geneva branch of Swiss faux-pub chain **Mr Pickwick** on rue de Lausanne, north of Pâquis. **LG**

STADE DE GENÈVE

liberoguide.com/servette



Since opening in 2003, the 30,000-capacity **Stade de Genève** has hosted the national sides of Brazil, Argentina, England, France, Italy and Spain, recent victors over Switzerland in a Nations League game.

The ladies, meanwhile, beat France here in 2024, but Geneva's showcase

arena, replacing the charming if dilapidated Stade des Charmilles, now a public park, mainly serves as the home ground of revived men's Swiss Super League team Servette. The third most successful club in Swiss football history were out of the limelight for much of the 21st century. In fact, until promotion from

the second-tier Challenge League in 2019, all **Servette** had to show for the last two decades was two cases of bankruptcy and the solitary Swiss Cup win of 2001.

Les Grenats won all of their 17 Swiss titles when based in the district they were named after, on

MATCHES

July 4, 6pm **Denmark v Sweden**
 July 7, 9pm **Portugal v Italy**
 July 10, 9pm **Finland v Switzerland**
 July 16, 9pm **QF – Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B**
 July 22, 9pm **SF – Winner QF3 v Winner QF1**

the unfashionable right bank of the Rhône. Since regaining top-flight status, Servette have twice finished runners-up, achieving passage to the qualifying rounds of the Champions League and rekindling memories of European Cup ties with the great Real Madrid, Dukla Prague and Dynamo Berlin.

Super League champions in 2024, the women's team, Servette Chênoise Féminin, welcomed Roma to the Stade de Genève for a Champions League fixture. Domestic fixtures are played in Chêne-Bourg just outside Geneva, linked to the club's origins more than half a century ago.

For the Euro 2025, capacity at the Stade de Genève will be capped at 26,750. The pitch is the same top-quality Mixto Hybrid Grass as used at Real Madrid, Ajax and Atlético Bilbao. Around it, up close, are four stands: the home Tribune Nord and Sud for visiting

supporters behind each goal, the main Tribune Principale and Tribune Est opposite. Around the ground is **La Praille**, a hotel and retail complex housing chain cafés and eateries.

GETTING HERE

On match nights, extra trains are being laid on to serve **Lancy-Pont-Rouge** (for the north side of the stadium) and, one stop further on, **Lancy-Bachet** (south side), from main Genève Cornavin. Journey time is around 6-10mins – allow the same again for the walk from either station to the stadium.

As Geneva is hosting a quarter-final and semi, extra trains will wait until 40mins-1hr after the final whistle in the case of extra-time or penalties.

Where to drink

WHERE TO DRINK

Many gather at **Molino**, a standard Italian restaurant with a terrace, alongside the Ramada hotel and part of La Praille retail centre. On match days, supporters are happy to order a small Moretti, a half-litre of Heineken or house wine by the glass.

In summer, a **pop-up beach bar** springs into operation close to the entrance of the Tribune Nord, serving Valaisanne beer in convivial, alfresco surroundings. The adjoining shopping centre otherwise offers mainstream cafés and restaurants, handy for families. **L6**

The lakeside resort of **Lucerne** is as pretty a setting as you'll find for a football match – even in Switzerland. Home of flagship club **FC Luzern**, the **swissporarena** sits close to snow-capped mountains, beside a classic Swiss chalet restaurant. For the three Euro 2025 games being staged here, including Wales' clash with Holland, it reverts to its pre-rebuild name of the **Stadion Allmend**, capacity reduced to 14,350.

Surprisingly overlooked for the 1954 World Cup and Euro 2008, Lucerne will be pushing the boat out for Euro 2025 – not that it has to try too hard. Walk straight out of the station and the first thing you see is boats taking tourists out to gawp at the gorgeous scenery from the lake.

The fan zone occupies a prime site by the station on Europaplatz, with a live stage and mini-pitch. At the tourist office, ask about themed city walks organised for the tournament.

GETTING AROUND

The nearest airport is **Zürich** 67km (41.5 miles) away. One **train** an hour runs directly from Zürich airport to Lucerne ('Luzern') 1hr away, or change at Zürich main station. Travel across Switzerland and venue cities is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. S-Bahn trains and buses run to



the Allmend Stadion south of town. On a non-match day, a train ticket from Zürich will cost around SF30. Based near the stadium, **Ernst Hess taxis** (+41 41 310 10 10) accepts credit cards.

WHERE TO STAY

The **Lucerne Tourist Office** (luzern.com) has a **hotel-booking service**. The only hotel near the stadium is the old-school **Spatz**, with its own restaurant, one bus stop closer

to town. Around the station, the cluster of hotels includes the spiffy **Monopol**, with Nespresso machines in guest rooms and fine views from its first-floor restaurant. Behind, the **Waldstätterhof** fills a historic building

with recently renovated lodgings. On the same bus 20 route, the **Anker** anchors a prominent corner with contemporary rooms and a rooftop jacuzzi. Nearby, the **Alpha Garni** appeals thanks to moderate prices and helpful staff.

Overlooking the water and Chapel Bridge, the **Hôtel des Alpes** offers view of both – at a price. Alongside, the **Pickwick** is attached to the chain pub of the same name, with simpler, cheaper rooms, all with waterfront views and most with balconies. In high season, it's a minimum two-night stay.

WHERE TO DRINK

Pick of the pubs is **Anfield** (Seehofstraße 7), suitably Liverpool-themed, with TV screens aplenty and almost as many dartboards. Nearby, the Irish-run **Shamrock Irish Pub** on Wagenbachgasse has a raised terrace to cope with the overflow from its cosy downstairs bar area.

The Lucerne branch of Swiss chain **Mr Pickwick** sticks to the standard formula of its counterparts but offers an unsurpassable view of the water from its terrace. Behind in the Old Town, friendly **Magdi** on Eisengasse is 'where punks and bankers meet', a local mainstay since 1803. Alongside, **Down Town** has been catering to the rock fraternity for half a century or more. **LG**

ALLMEND STADION

liberoguide.com/fc-luzern

Regular European competitors **FC Luzern** have been mainstays in the Swiss Super League for decades, attracting five-figure crowds from across central Switzerland. Factoring in the convenient location and picturesque setting, there were persuasive arguments to rebuild the venerable old **Allmend**, the club's home from 1934 to the early 2000s, with a €65 million rebuild.

Gleaming gold in the Alpine sun from its signature wraparound, the **swissporarena** replaced the Allmend on the club's 110th anniversary. While this now allows Lucerne to stage its first major tournament having been overlooked for the 1954 World Cup and Euro 2008, the stadium sponsors, an eco-friendly construction company, have to allow UEFA to use the venue's original name of Allmend.

Local architects Daniel Marques and Iwan Bühler created a contemporary, 17,000-capacity venue also suitable for Switzerland internationals – the men's national XI usually play here every couple of years.

Otherwise, this is where home club Luzern plays its domestic and European fixtures, hence the



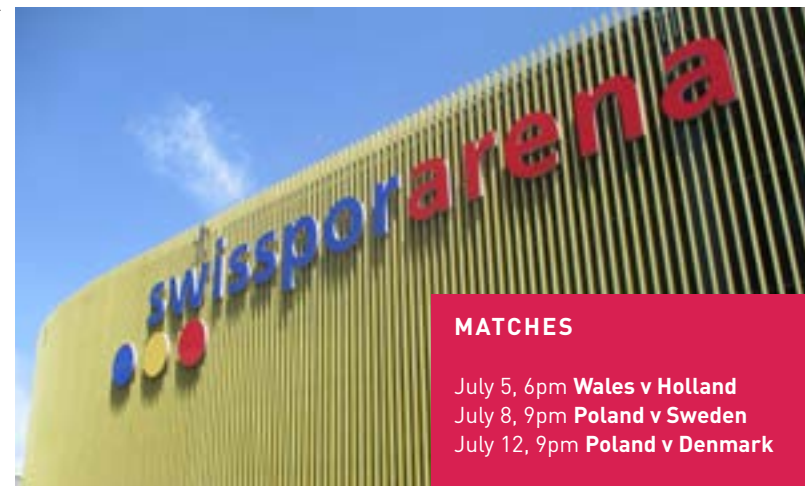
FCL lettering picked out on the signature blue seating. Recent visitors have included Hibernian, Feyenoord and Espanyol. Illumination is provided by the toothbrush-shaped floodlights, somehow strangely popular in Switzerland, lining the roof.

For domestic fixtures, home fans fill sectors B2-3 in the home end, B Tribüne (blue). Visiting supporters are allocated C6, at the other end of Tribüne C (red), facing the main stand, Tribüne A (yellow). Tribüne D (green) is behind the other goal.

Luzern's ladies' team, FCL Frauen, league champions five times running in the early 2000s, play alongside the main stadium, part of the Sportanlagen Allmend complex.

GETTING HERE

Allmend/Messe is one stop south on the **S-Bahn S4** (direction Stans or Wolfenschlessen) and **S5** (direction Giswil) lines from Lucerne main station. Trains usually leave from platform 14, the furthest to the left as you're facing the station with your back to the lake.



MATCHES

July 5, 6pm **Wales v Holland**
July 8, 9pm **Poland v Sweden**
July 12, 9pm **Poland v Denmark**

The S-Bahn brings you right alongside the trade fair area and sports hall – note the pictorial history of key events held there, chess tournaments and indoor athletics, on the pillars of the station at platform level.

Alternatively, **bus 20** runs from the concourse outside Lucerne train station, then down Pilatusstraße then Obergrundstraße, journey time to the stadium 10mins.

WHERE TO DRINK

By the stadium, **Wirtschaft zum Schützenhaus** is a traditional restaurant in Swiss chalet style, with a pretty terrace where regulars tuck into quality mains such as sea bass and pork

schnitzel. There's a serious list of Swiss and other European wines, and Eichhof beer on tap. Everything feels sturdy and professional.

By the S-Bahn station, authentically retro **Allmend** is attached to the bowling alley where FCL players changed in the park-pitch days. Towards town on Horwerstraße, **Militärgarten** was opened before FCL were founded. This is another serious restaurant, serving home-made pasta dishes and rösti variations, the extensive wine list leaning heavily on Tuscan labels. Beer is Eichhof and Hubertus dark, ideally supped on the sunny back terrace. **LG**

The tranquil shores of Lake Constance that divide Switzerland from Germany and Austria are where football took root in Europe. On the Swiss side, **St Gallen** is home to the oldest club side still in existence on the Continent.

On April 19, 1879, an advert in the *St Galler Tagblatt* announced a meeting at the **Hörnli** restaurant, with a view to starting a football club. **FC St Gallen** duly won the Swiss title in 1904. St Gallen moved out to a new-build on the eve of Euro 2008, Switzerland christening the AFG Arena with a 3-0 win over Liechtenstein.

Before 2016-17, the stadium, at the western outskirts of town, was renamed **kybunpark**. For the Euros, it reverts to the non-sponsored name of the **Arena St Gallen**. The **fan zone** will be set up on Marktgasse in the pretty city centre until July 13, closed on July 6.

GETTING AROUND

The nearest international airport to St Gallen is **Zürich** 87km (54 miles) away. A half-hourly **train** runs direct from the airport to St Gallen, journey time 50mins-1hr. If you're going straight from the airport to the stadium, an hourly **train** allows you to change at **Gossau** for **Winkeln**, and reach the ground in 1hr 15mins. Otherwise, change at St Gallen main station. A stadium shuttle service,



Extrabus, will also be running from the station and **fan zone** at **Markplatz Bohl**.

Travel across Switzerland by rail, bus, boat and tram is free for Euro

match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. The same goes for journeys across the venue city. The standard train ticket from Zürich Airport to St Gallen is otherwise SF17-20 single.

Based near St Gallen station, **Herold Taxi** (+41 71 2222 777) accepts credit cards.

WHERE TO DRINK

A bar hub clusters around **Augustinergasse**, **Engelgasse** and **Metzgergasse** near Marktplatz. On Metzgergasse, evening-only **Gallus**



–your Irish pub in the heart of St Gallen’ – goes big on karaoke, live music and TV sport. Nearby, the **Irish Pub Brühltor** ticks most boxes, Guinness, Magner's, London Pride and all, while the **Süd Bar** attracts young hipsters with varied beers and beats, and cocktails until the early hours. A summer garden adds to the fun.

Towards the station, the **O-Five Pub** on Poststraße provides jugs of Guinness and beer towers to go with the TV match action. Behind Spisertor, **Da Sláinte Inn** goes more for live music than sport.

WHERE TO STAY

St Gallen Bodensee Tourist Information (st.gallen-bodensee.ch) has a **hotel database and booking function**. Near the stadium, the **hotel one66** is a handy three-star with weekend deals, plus a bar happy to welcome fans on match days. Also close, **New Star** appeals to a business clientele with its own car park.

Near St Gallen station, the **Metropol** has been serving rail travellers for over a century while the four-star **Walhalla St Gallen** exudes style and tradition. By the fan zone at Marktplatz, the **Weisses Kreuz** offers mid-range rooms and a modern bar.

ARENA ST GALLEN

liberoguide.com/fc-st-gallen

A regular haunt for Switzerland's national men's team, who have played nine times here in the last five years, the **Arena St Gallen** hosts three group games at the Women's Euros. England, Wales, France, Germany and Poland grace the home of the oldest football club still operating on mainland Europe, **FC St Gallen**.

While 'Esen' will soon be celebrating their 150th anniversary, the Green-and-Whites have had meagre reward for many decades spent in Switzerland's top flight. After winning a rare Swiss title in 2000, FCSG moved into this new-build in 2008. Opened as the AFG Arena, the renamed **kybunpark** holds nearly 20,000. Capacity for the Euros is 16,300, the ground reverting to a name bereft of sponsored allegiance but still retaining its seats of signature green, some spelling out the club's proud foundation date of 1879.

For much of that time, FCSG ran out at **Espenmoos**, where **St Gallen Frauen** now play fixtures in the Swiss Women's Super League. Founded as recently as 2017, the ladies' team have added another chapter to the gilded history of this revered ground, first opened in 1910, staging its first international two years later.

For nearly two decades, stadium announcements were read out in



signature style by the Schlegel sisters, Monika and Helen, controversially dismissed by short-term club president Hans Hurni, who later oversaw the building of the Arena St Gallen.

For the men's games there, St Gallen fans fill the home Espenblock with green flares and fireworks, sectors D2

and D3 usually standing ones behind the goal. Visiting supporters are allocated Gästesektor 4 at opposite end. The main stand, the Mettler-Tribüne houses the VIP and business seats.

GETTING HERE

The quickest way to the stadium is to take the **S1** (direction Wil) or **S5 train**

(direction Weinfelden) from St Gallen main station to **Winkeln**, two stops/ five minutes away.

Those coming in by plane can go immediately from the station at Zürich Airport, an hourly **train** allows you to change at Gossau for **Winkeln**, and reach the ground in 1hr 15mins. Otherwise, change at St Gallen main station.

From Winkeln station, take the underpass then the street ahead of you, **Herisauer Straße**. The stadium is about 7-8mins ahead.

Alternatively, a stadium shuttle service, **Extrabus**, will also be running to the stadium from the station and **fan zone** at **Markplatz Bohl**. The ground is also served by regular **bus 1** every 20mins from the main station, journey time 20mins, stopping at **Westcenter** by the stadium.

WHERE TO DRINK

Near Winkeln station on Herisauer Straße, typical Swiss bar/restaurant **Landhaus Winkeln** opens on match days, serving local Schützengarten beer.

At the smaller Westcenter mall near the stadium, **West Corner** on level 2 offers beer, TV screens and meaty main dishes, as well as tablets for customer use. At the larger Shopping Arena alongside, the **Restaurant Arena** by the West Entrance serves beer, cocktails and mocktails, screens showing match action. **LG**

MATCHES

July 4, 9pm **Germany v Poland**
 July 9, 9pm **France v Wales**
 July 13, 9pm **England v Wales**

Capital of the canton of Valais, just down the A9 motorway from Sepp Blatter's home village of Visp, French-speaking **Sion** is nestled halfway between the Matterhorn and Lake Geneva.

Here cup specialists **FC Sion** have no immediate rivals – although it's always good to beat Servette – and attract regional as much as local patriotism. The population of Sion is only just twice the capacity of the **Stade de Tourbillon**, by a narrow stretch of the Rhône, so many head in from around the canton, taking advantage of the A9 motorway alongside.

Strolling through Sion to the stadium during the tournament should be a pleasant half-hour walk, the **Women's Euro Way**. En route, either at Cour de Gare by the Gare Nord (city) side of the station, or around the focal square of place du Midi, entertainment zones offer rodeo football, an inflatable pitch and live music. The family-friendly fun takes place over six days in July, 2-3, 5-6 and 10-11, fans of Italy, Belgium, Norway, Finland and Portugal getting involved depending on the match day.

GETTING AROUND

The nearest airport to Sion is **Geneva** 160km (100 miles) away. A train runs from **Genève-Aéroport** via Geneva to Sion (every 30mins, 2hr journey



time). Trains from Bern, Basel and Zürich, including Zürich airport, require a change in **Visp**.

Travel across Switzerland by rail, bus, boat and tram is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. The same goes for journeys across the venue city. The standard train ticket from Geneva to Sion is SF35 single. Sion's adjacent bus and train stations are a stroll from the town centre.

WHERE TO DRINK

Surrounded by vineyards, Sion also drinks local **Walliser/Valaisanne** beer. Bars surround **place du Midi**, including **Café de la Place**, **Le Brésilien**, and, also with football action, old-school **Au Boulevard**. In summer, their terraces merge in the Valais sunshine.

Close by on rue du Scex, opened by sponsors of FC Sion, the **Dugout** is a lively sports bar with TVs ranged over the counter and tables outside



in nice weather. Party-minded **Saint James** at rue de la Dents-Blanche 9 is more club than bar, with DJ nights and late-opening hours.

WHERE TO STAY

Sion Tourisme (siontourisme.ch) has an **online booking system**. The centre has three three-star hotels. Old-school **Hôtel Castel**, near the stadium on rue du Scex, has standard doubles, some with Castle views, from SF180.

Also convenient but on the other side of the A9 motorway, the **ibis**

Sion Est comprises 71 three-star rooms, a restaurant and car park, guests granted access to a golf course and tennis courts within easy reach. Nearby, Marriott's funky **Moxy** chain offers cycle rental and a dry-cleaning service.

The **Hôtel Élite** on the station side of the city centre on avenue du Midi is also known for its popular terrace restaurant. By the station, the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites Sion** is a recent addition, as illustrated by the sleek exterior. Paid-for amenities include parking and pet stays. **LE**



Run by controversial owner Christian Constantin, cup specialists **FC Sion** moved to the **Stade de Tourbillon** in 1968. Nestled between a winding stretch of the Rhône and the Alps, the Tourbillon was named after a medieval castle perched on the surrounding hilltops.

The snow-capped peaks add to the charm – behind, the A9 motorway is barely noticeable as you approach from town. However, the ground has lost much of its quaint feel: the wooden benches that used to line the East Stand were replaced by plastic seats in 2011.

This, in turn, has brought competitive international football to Sion – if a Euro qualifying game with Gibraltar (4-0 in September 2019) can be termed competitive.

As for women's football, **DFC Sion** were early pioneers in the Swiss game, winning two league titles and two cups in the late 1970s. Their most famous player, Madeleine Boli, starred in these victories, but only after playing with Sion's boys' team a decade earlier. Though some sources claim she even lined up for FC Sion's men's team in a European Cup game

against Galatasaray in 1965, there's no evidence to back it up – 'the Blond Mountain' did play professionally in Italy in the early 1970s.

Sadly, DFC Sion blipped off the radar, the local women's game dominated by FC Zürich. When the men's team plays, FC Sion fans occupy the Tribune Nord, visiting supporters blocks D5 and D6 in the Tribune Sud. VIPs are housed in the Tribune Ouest, the best seats in A2 and A8 facing the ones over the halfway line in Tribune Est, C3-C5. Capacity for the Women's Euro 2025 tournament, for which the



Pic: Rudi Jansen

stadium hosts three group games, is 7,700.

GETTING HERE

Usually, the stadium is a 20-minute walk from **Sion station**, heading straight out to avenue de Tourbillon opposite, bearing right and following it until the river. You then cross at the junction with rue du Scex and the stadium is ahead of you down rue du Stade.

For six days during the Euros – July 2-3, 5-6 and 10-11 – the **Women's Euro Way** customises the route and allows strollers to stop at Cour de

Gare by the Gare Nord (city) side of the station, and focal square place du Midi, where entertainment zones provide rodeo football, an inflatable pitch, live music and face-painting.

WHERE TO DRINK

In warmer months from May 1, **La Plage** sets up at avenue du Bietschhorn 36 on the city side of the ground, between the canal and the A9 motorway. Drinks include local craft brews Armor Fati IPA from Martigny and La Shiro wheat from Savièse, as well as Valais wines, notch-above lunches veal sausage and goat's cheese quiche.

At the equestrian centre by the stadium, the **New Paladin** puts burgers and Valais beer to the fore. Buvettes ranged around the ground offer local Fendant white wine and red Gamay, plus beer in 25cl measures. **LG**

MATCHES

July 3, 6pm **Belgium v Italy**
July 6, 6pm **Norway v Finland**
July 11, 9pm **Portugal v Belgium**

Beneath the Bernese Alps, **Thun** has made its football presence felt over the last two decades. Flagship club **FC Thun** were group-stage opponents for Arsenal in 2006 – but home ties were played in nearby Berne.

The limitations of Thun's charming **Stadion Lachen**, where West Germany trained before winning the World Cup in 1954, prompted the club to invest in a new-build south-west of town, towered over by Alpine peaks. Unveiled in 2011, the **Arena Thun** later gained a sponsors' name after cable-car firm **Stockhorn**.

Set at the edge of Lake Thun, the city feels recreational, skiing and watersports close at hand. For the Euros, the **fan zone** is located Waisenhausplatz on Bälliz island between the city centre and the train station. The setting allows for a surfing contest, open-air football yoga and a stage for live music. Activities run until July 10.

GETTING AROUND

The nearest main airport to Thun is **Basel** 130km (81 miles) away. After taking bus 50 to Basel SBB station, a direct train runs every 30mins to Thun, journey time 1hr 25mins. Travel across Switzerland by rail, bus, boat and tram is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. The same goes for journeys



across the venue city. The standard train ticket from Basel to Thun is otherwise SF33 single.

Thun station and main bus concourse sit on the west bank of the Aare. For the Euros, a free shuttle bus runs from Mönchstraße behind the station to the stadium, journey time 10mins. Arena Thun also has its own stop on **line 3** from Thun station. Walking would take 45mins along **Langgasse**.

Local **AA-Taxi Thun** (+41 33 222 9595) offers airport transfers.

WHERE TO DRINK

You'll find bars and restaurants on either side of **Obere Hauptgasse**, around **Mühlplatz** near the river. These include contemporary saloon **Schmiedstube**, the **Cadillac Bar** with pool and table football, and bright **El Camino**, with its fair range of beers on tap. **BarBar** is the place to go for serious darts action.

For TV football, head to **McArthurs** on Marktgasse, with matches on a 55-inch HD screen, live bands and good grub. On Rathausplatz, prominent **Ratsstübli** is not just a historic restaurant but a bar too, showing sport and hosting parties.

WHERE TO STAY

The **Thun regional Tourist Office** (thunersee.ch) has a **hotel database** and **booking function**.



The Arena Thun has few accommodation options around it. In the city centre, the **Krone** on the main square Rathausplatz was a guildhouse – now it's a traditional 34-room hotel including several single units. Across the square, the **Hotel-Restaurant Rathaus** dates back even earlier, its comfortable rooms also the result of stylish renovation.

On Bälliz island by the Waisenhausplatz fan zone, the revamped, upscale **Hotel Aare Thun** has been a dance hall, a brothel, a custom house and, until 2023, the Hotel Freienhof. The one constant has been the waterside views.

For lakeside relaxation, the **Alpha Thun Hotel** and **Holiday Thun** provide mid-range lodging by FC Thun's old ground, Stadion Lachen. **L6**

ARENA THUN

liberoguide.com/fc-thun



The fact that the good people of Thun poo-pooed the idea of using public funds to build a new football stadium should not reflect badly on the game's popularity here, not its longevity. Flagship club FC Thun have been a going concern since 1898, their achievement of reaching the group stage of the Champions League in 2005 forcing the club to look to the future rather than bask in its charming past.

Quaint though it was, the **Stadion Lachen**, backdropped by snow-capped peaks, proved unsuitable to host Arsenal, Ajax and Sparta Prague 20 years, Thun's home games played in nearby Berne.

When the club was forced to rethink strategy to fund the building of a new home, a mall was the answer, while sponsorship of the arena itself was sold to cable-car company

Stockhorn which serves the mountain of the same name.

The ground bears all the hallmarks of a new-build: artificial turf, out-of-town location, retail park alongside, motorway nearby, little else in the vicinity. Opened in 2011, renamed in 2014, the stadium holds 10,000, of which 2,000 are usually standing places in the Heimsektor, the home end of the Südtribüne. Away



fans for domestic fixtures are allocated sectors D9 and D10 in the Nordtribüne.

Capacity for the Euros is just over 8,000 – all-seated, of course – and Icelandic, Finnish, Spanish, Belgian and Norwegian fans will not fail to notice the seats of signature red, colours of FC Thun, reflecting the coat of arms of the city itself. The women's team, meanwhile, honour their red-and-black heritage in their name of Rot Schwarz Thun, the same as the ribbons tied around the Swiss Cup in 2009.

GETTING HERE

For the Euros, a free shuttle bus runs from Mönchstraße behind the station to the stadium, journey time 10mins. Arena Thun also has its own stop

on regular **line 3** from Thun station, same journey time. Walking would take 45mins along **Langgasse**.

WHERE TO DRINK

Within a short walk of the stadium, heading away from town on Allmendingenstraße, **Kreuz** is a classic Swiss restaurant run by a friendly couple, who also open Sundays if there's a game on that day.

The only place by the stadium sits at street level at the **Panorama Centre** opposite: **Migros**, attached to the supermarket of the same name, but only serving coffee, soft drinks and snacks.

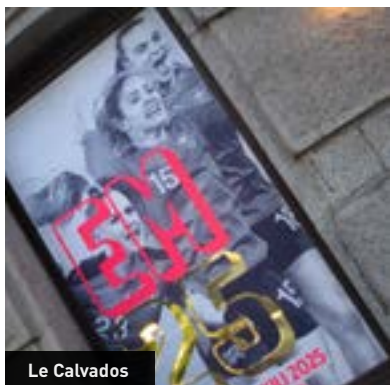
Under the main stand on match days, the **FanZelt** is a beer-dispensing marquee, with sausages sizzling on the grill. Depending on the opposition, the beer might be alcohol-free Carlsberg.

The best FC Thun drinking spots are at the old **Stadion Lachen** on Gwattstraße. The **supporters' bar** is decorated with vintage pennants and autographed posters from the 2005 Champions

League campaign. It should be open and serving beer most evenings. Across the street, the **Restaurant Lachen** is another age-old Thun haunt with pennants to prove it. Beer and main dishes are served on the terrace. **LG**

MATCHES

July 2, 6pm **Iceland v Finland**
 July 7, 6pm **Spain v Belgium**
 July 10, 9pm **Norway v Iceland**



Switzerland's financial capital is also a football one, for both the men's and women's games. The rival clubs of **FC Zürich** and **Grasshoppers** – this is also the only Swiss city with a regular top-flight rivalry – account for 40 titles between them, nearly twice as many as nearest competitors Basel.

As for **FC Zürich Frauen**, their 24 league crowns speak for themselves, including five straight wins from 2012–16. No wonder, then, that Zürich is hosting a special **exhibition** dedicated to the women's game in Switzerland, *Frauen am Ball*, alongside the FCZ Museum, below the club shop on Freischützgasse.

While FCZ ladies play at the sports complex of Heerenschürli north-east of town, the men's team shares the **Letzigrund** with Grasshoppers. A regular venue for Switzerland's

men's and women's national teams – Germany's DFB-Frauen won 6-0 here in a 2024 friendly in front of 17,000 fans – the Letzigrund was first built by FCZ members exactly a century ago.

Nearby at Zypressenstrasse tram stop, don't miss **Retroshirts**, stocking classic vintage tops.

GETTING AROUND

Zürich Airport is 13km (eight miles) north of town, linked by **Swiss Rail** and **S-Bahn trains** to **Zürich main station** (12min journey time). Alongside is **fan zone**, operating for the length of the tournament (not July 14–15). The Letzigrund is a short journey west from nearby Bahnhofplatz.

Travel across Switzerland and venue cities is free for Euro match-ticket holders from midnight before the game and until 5am the following day. **Taxi Zürich** (+41 782 306 074) offers airport transfers.

WHERE TO STAY

The **Zürich Tourist Office** (zuerich.com) has a hotel-booking service. Contrary to certain sources, the **H+ Hotel Zürich** facing the Letzigrund is not closed, but is still offering business-friendly lodging with a gym and sauna. Also on main Badenerstrasse, a little nearer town, the **Crowne Plaza Zurich**



has a heated indoor pool and two restaurants at lobby level.

The terrace café/restaurant at the four-star **Stoller** across the street doubles up as a pre-match favourite – kids will love the ice cream, served to Italian standards since 1938. Equally old-school is the nearby **Hotel Olympia**.

By Zürich station, the **Schweizerhof** combines the tradition of a railway hotel with modern features.

WHERE TO DRINK

Zürich is the home of Hurlimann beer. Plenty of it flows in the bar hub of **Niederdorfstrasse**, behind the Limmat embankment. There, the **Züri Bar** (No.24) is a cult spot, though it's lost its FCZ iconography. It leads to another landmark, the **Kon-Tiki**. **Big Ben** is more bar than pub but shows games on a big screen.

Near the FCZ Museum, **Kennedy's** on Freischützgasse has plenty of TVs – don't be put off by the scaffolding

around it – as does Irish-owned **Paddy Reilly's**, its large terrace alongside the Sihlstrasse stop also serving the Letzigrund.

The excellent **Le Calvados** on Idaplatz, a self-styled *bar sportif*, overflows onto the square on summer evenings. Around the corner, craft-brew showcase **Ponyhof** on Gertrudstrasse is run by the team behind legendary cult football bar Kaiser Franz, while **Enfant Terrible** celebrates heroic women and shows games. **LG**



The **Letzigrund**, created by and for the members of **FC Zürich**, is now shared between FCZ and **Grasshoppers**.

Its long history can be divided between the original stadium opening on November 22, 1925 – and the Euro 2008 rebuild on the same site, unveiled on August 30, 2007.

Top-flight football and world-class athletics have always featured. The first ratified ten-second 100-metre dash was run here in 1960.

Although ownership passed from FCZ to the City of Zürich in 1937,

improvements were slow and stopped by war. The Letzigrund was overlooked for Switzerland's hosting of the 1954 World Cup, five matches (and 28 goals) hosted at the Hardturm, Grasshoppers' old ground less than 1km away.

When it came down to which one to modernise for Euro 2008, on the table was also a proposal to build a new arena in Zürich West. In the end, though the public voted for a reconstruction of the Hardturm,

residents objected and the rebuilding of the Letzigrund was rushed through.



In 2006-07, city's two clubs shared the Hardturm for one last season. It was later demolished – and the new stadium plans rejected. In August 2006, FCZ fans were invited to enter the old Letzigrund and take home pieces of turf for souvenirs.

Exactly a year and SF125 million later, the new Letzigrund opened its doors. With a capacity of 26,000 for domestic league fixtures and 24,000 for internationals, it is the fourth-largest football stadium in Switzerland. For the five games to be played here at the Women's Euros 2025, attendances are capped at 22,700 – expect a

MATCHES

July 5, 9pm **France v England**
 July 9, 6pm **England v Holland**
 July 12, 9pm **Sweden v Germany**
 July 17, 9pm **QF – Winners Group C v Runners-up Group D**
 July 23, 9pm, **SF2 – Winners QF4 v QF2**

large crowd for the semi-final and England's two group games.

Apart from the skyboxes, a media centre and the Oval restaurant,

the main feature post-2008 is the roof. Rust-coloured and elliptical, it complements 30 toothbrush-shaped floodlights, set beside the solar panels that generate enough heat to grill 1,800 sausages during one match.

Traditionally, FCZ fans occupy the Südcurve, Grasshoppers supporters the Baslerstraße end, Sektor B.

GETTING HERE

The Letzigrund has its own stop on **tramline 2** eight stops/14mins from central **Paradeplatz**. For the Euros, special event-day **tram E** runs from **Bahnhofplatz** by the **ZüriFanzone** at the main station, from where regular **tram 3** goes to **Albisriederplatz**, one stop/7-8min walk from the Letzigrund.

WHERE TO DRINK

By the Letzigrund tram stop, the Japanese-themed **Ooki Pavilion** serves classic dishes from miso soup to tempura and udon, accompanied by sake, cocktails, or Asahi or Sapporo beer. Reserve a terrace table or find a spot on the grass outside.

Across Letzigraben, the grilled specialties at **Martha's Snacks** attracts long queues while back on the stadium side of Badenerstraße, tables are at a premium at the sleek **Letzigrund**, a continuation of the long-standing Restaurant da Cono, the menu still quality Italian. Live TV games are another feature. **LE**