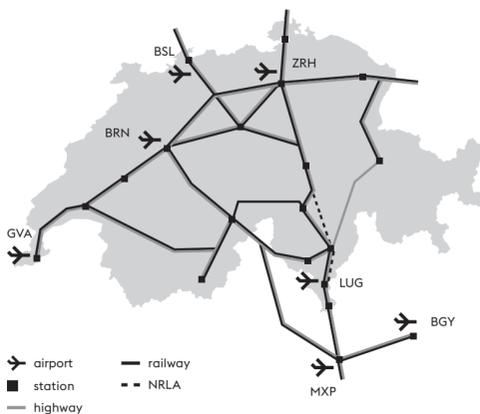




## How to get here



## Ticino



It is a canton with a unique personality. The only one south of the Alps and with Italian as the only official language. The wealth of its leisure-time offerings, the variety of accommodation options, the quality of its services all make this region a must-visit destination. All type of visitors will find here just what they are looking for: absolute tranquility in the midst of nature, 4,600 km of marked trails, almost 1,000 km for cycling, a lively nightlife in the cities, plus excellent cuisine, numerous offerings for outdoor sports and multiple cultural activities, not to mention shopping, congress tourism and wellness.

## Landscape

The landscape of Ticino is so diverse! To the north, there are the Alps: massive and mighty mountains crossed by valleys cut by the glaciers and rivers that flow into Lake Maggiore. Further south, the climate is already Mediterranean, with Lake Lugano at the centre of the splendid panorama. In the region, there are also many bodies of water: there are about 130 alpine lakes in this territory. Lakes, mountains, but also hills in the Mendrisiotta, the Ticino's most southerly region known as the Tuscany of Switzerland because of its gentle hills covered with vineyards and its reddish sunsets on warm October evenings.



## History

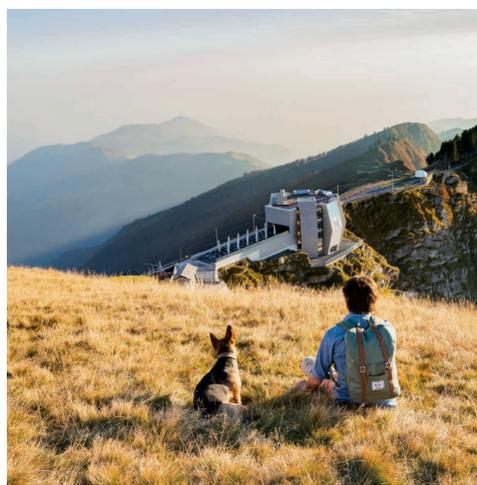


Where did the first inhabitants of Ticino come from? No one knows. The oldest settlements, e.g. the Tremona site, date back to the Neolithic period. In Roman times, it was a land of passage and, for centuries, its lands were disputed between the city of Como, the Duchy of Milan and the Swiss Cantons, until it achieved independence, in 1803, with the support of Napoleon. The Gotthard railway tunnel was opened in 1882, the highway tunnel in 1980 and the Gotthard base tunnel, the world's longest, in 2016. Eight Swiss Federal Councillors were or are natives of Ticino: the first of these was Stefano Franscini, elected in 1848, while the most recent is Ignazio Cassis, elected in 2017.

## Nature

Flower gardens, enchanted lakes, crystalline rivers and wild valleys: in Ticino, paths and roads with very light traffic all lead you to the discovery of a natural paradise, where man is a mere spectator.

- Some twenty alpine lakes, an 8 km wide valley bottom at 2,000 metres above sea level and one of the world's most famous cheeses: **Piura Valley**.
- Just a stone's throw from the **Basodino** glacier: from the bottom of Bavona Valley with a cable car up to Robiei.
- A botanical park above the city: in **Carona**, 62,000 square metres are shared by azaleas and rhododendrons and the local flora of Insubria.
- Traditions still live in the **Muggio Valley**: Switzerland's southernmost valley is characterised by the mill of Bruzella, *roccoli* (bird catching towers) and *nevèra* (ice pits).
- Testimonies of another era: the **Breggia Gorge Park** reveals the beauty of geology, taking us 200 million years back in time.



## Events

Music in the squares, cinema under the stars: Ticino loves music, the seventh art and major events. Jazz, blues, pop and rock concerts all enliven the mild summer evenings.

- A band emerges from an alley and a jam session ends at dawn: in June, **JazzAscona** brings a piece of Louisiana to Lake Maggiore.
- Estival Jazz**: for over 40 years, this prestigious open-air event has brought great musicians, well-known on the international scene, to Lugano.
- Rabadan**: still partying at 155 years of age! Ticino's most famous carnival every year attracts more than 150,000 masks to the streets of Bellinzona.
- For more than 220 years, at Easter time, Mendrisio has perpetuated its ancient tradition of **historical religious processions**, which have become part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.
- Cinema and music in **Piazza Grande**. For more than 70 years, international guests and films have enlivened the heart of the city: Locarno Festival, Moon&Stars and Locarno On Ice all create a magical atmosphere.



## Contacts

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## Culture

A land of encounters, with two UNESCO World Heritage properties, museums and architecture surrounded by greenery. Ticino, forged by culture, is a truly special place for artists.

- UNESCO**: two World Heritage properties in Ticino: the fossil deposit of the Monte San Giorgio, with more than 20,000 fossils, including reptiles, fishes, invertebrates and plants; and the castles of Bellinzona, which are instead an extraordinary testimony of the medieval fortified architecture of the Alps.
- LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura**: the beating heart of the city, a place for sharing and contamination between different artistic disciplines.
- Curzùtt**: the church San Barnard features an unusual Last Supper just a short distance from a modern 130 metres high cable bridge.
- Fiore di pietra**: at an altitude of 1,700 metres, the new building designed by the architect Mario Botta dominates the Mendrisiotta.
- Church of Negrentino**: the old church of Sant'Ambrogio Vecchio is a splendid example of Romanesque architecture dating back to 1050.

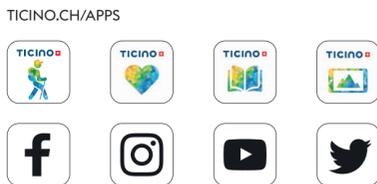


## Family

Discover together medieval castles, parks and gardens. Every moment is precious. While the most beautiful pages of a lifetime are written, families can have fun with serenity.

- Falconry Locarno**: a flight into the Middle Ages featuring eagles, vultures, owls and hawks, with more than 20 species overhead.
- Cardada**: a mountain to discover offering thrills, fun and views. An exceptional vantage point from which the highest and lowest points in Switzerland can be observed.
- Tamaro Park**: adventure, nature, slides, panoramic views and wellness in the heart of Ticino.
- Lido Locarno**: a swimming pool on the lake in a dreamlike panorama close to the beach, with its deckchairs and beach volleyball courts.
- Swissminiatur**: in Melide, a child-sized tour of Switzerland in an area of just 14,000 square metres, where 120 models in 1:25 scale, surrounded by 15,000 flowers, can be admired.

## Apps and Socials



## Partners



## Gastronomy

Whether in a restaurant or a grotto, the ingredients are always typical of the territory: polenta, cheese, risotto. The person preparing them may be a rustic cook or a star chef, but always with great passion.

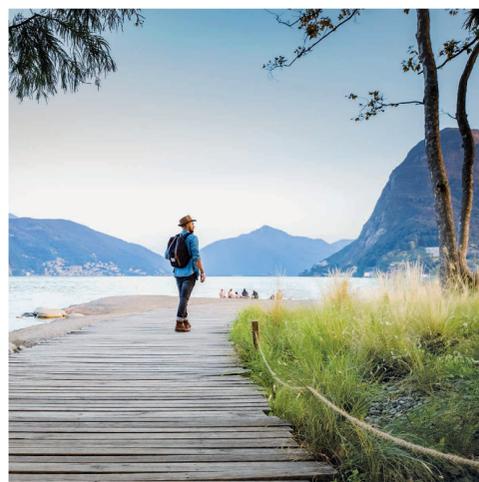
- 3 Slow Food Presidia**: *farina bona* flour from Onsernone Valley, *zinzarlin* cheese from Muggio Valley and *cielit*, typical goat meat sausages from the valleys of Locarno.
- Casa del vino Ticino**: the culture of wine impregnates and shapes the landscape of this territory, where every year 50 tons of Merlot grapes are harvested.
- Swiss? Yes**: from Ticino. Southern to the Alps **Alprose** and **Stella** are local brands which produce excellent quality chocolate.
- Cheese**: cow, goat or mixed cheeses are definitely among Ticino's finest products. Ticino produces almost 20 million litres of milk, most of which becomes cheese.



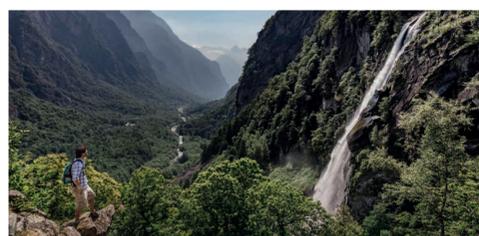
## Relax

Taking time off, letting yourself be pampered in a wellness centre, watching the colours of the sky and feeling the scents of nature, walking along the lake and enjoying an afternoon of shopping.

- There can be no doubt that **Ascona** is synonymous with vacations. A walk through the narrow streets of the town centre, a coffee in the square or a visit to Monte Verità will confirm why it is called "the pearl of the Verbanò".
- Via Nassa**: the 270 metres of this street dedicated to shopping offer major brands, design, jewellery and watches.
- Lugano, Mendrisio and Locarno**: the sophisticated casinos offer great games, slot machines and special evenings to be enjoyed in good company.
- Termali Salini & Spa**: in Locarno, there is no need to choose between the sea and mountains. From here you can see the peaks overlooking Lake Maggiore and bathing in warm salt water, or enjoying the spa.
- FoxTown**: this shopping outlet in Mendrisio is known worldwide for its wide range of major brands.



## #hikeTicino



For those who love to walk in the mountains or stroll with their family, in Ticino there is a route for everyone. Depending on the season and the region to discover, there is a wide choice of well-marked and well-maintained itineraries. Hidden paths in the Onsernone Valley, but also walks through the fragrant vineyards of Mendrisiotta, on the Greina Plateau or along the Chestnut Tree Trail. #hikeTicino features over 200 hiking trails and their points of interest. The smartphone app allows you to choose between routes with a particular focus on 32 Premium hikes, which are sure to win over excursion lovers.

# Ticino in brief and attractions

Source: Ufficio di statistica del Canton Ticino 2018

**Capital**  
Bellinzona, seat of Government and Parliament

**Official language**  
Italian

**Population**  
353,343 inhabitants (4.2% of the Swiss population)

**Major centres**  
Lugano 63,185 inhabitants  
Bellinzona 43,290 inhabitants  
Locarno 15,826 inhabitants  
Mendrisio 14,942 inhabitants

**Highest point**  
Cima Adula 3,402 m a.s.l.

**Lowest point**  
Lake Maggiore 193 m a.s.l.

**Southernmost inhabited village of Switzerland**  
Pedinrate

**Highest inhabited village of Ticino**  
Bosco Gurin (1,494 m a.s.l.)

**Climate**  
- Maximum temperature 35.5°C  
- Average winter temperature above 6°C  
- 2,170 hours of sunshine over the year in Ticino

**Territory**  
- Total area 2,812 km<sup>2</sup> (7% of Swiss territory)  
- Forest area 52%  
- Agricultural area 12.3%  
- Area of lakes and rivers 192 km<sup>2</sup>

**Tourism**  
The sector:  
- Generates 9.6% of GDP  
- Employs over 22,000 workers  
- 3.6 million overnight stays  
- Creates a gross added value of 2.1 billion francs

**Hotels**  
- 378 hotels  
- 8,849 rooms  
- 17,682 beds  
- More than 40,000 places for overnight stays in B&Bs, holiday homes and apartments, huts and youth hostels

**Campsites**  
- 38 campsites  
- More than 800,000 overnight stays

**Economy**  
- The per capita GDP of the Canton Ticino is around CHF 80,532.-  
- Agriculture: 2,983 workers;  
- Industry: 50,000 workers in 5,500 plants; Service sector: 136,730 workers

**Curiosities**  
- One of the world's highest jumps is placed in Verzasca Valley: GoldenEye Bungee Jumping with its 220 meters  
- More than 70 huts and 100 mountain refuges generate extraordinary numbers: 4,000 overnight stays in one year in the Cadlino hut or the 10,000 meals served in the Cadagno hut  
- With its 57 km, the Gotthard base tunnel is the longest in the world and the route under the Monte Ceneri brings Bellinzona, Locarno and Lugano closer to each other

- A land of artists: Ticino has hosted Hermann Hesse, the clown Dimitri, Daniele Finzi Pasca, Jean Arp, Patricia Highsmith, Mina, Paul Klee and Mario Botta  
- "47164 Ticino" is the name assigned to an asteroid discovered in 1999 by a professor of physics from Gnosca  
- The bell tower of Intragna, 65 metres, is the highest in Ticino

## Bellinzonese e Alto Ticino

- 1 Castles of Bellinzona, UNESCO World Heritage Site (H7)
- 2 Tibetan bridge "Carasc" and San Barnard church - Curzutt (G7)
- 3 Church of Negrentino (G2)
- 4 Pastefrolle from the Bedretto Valley (B2)
- 5 Gotthard Cheese Factory, Airolo (C2)
- 6 Funicular Ritom, Piotta (D1)
- 7 Saturday's market, Bellinzona (H7)
- 8 Church Santa Maria delle Grazie, Bellinzona (H7)
- 9 Villa dei Cedri, Bellinzona (H7)
- 10 Gotthard Pass and the Tremola (C1)
- 11 Center Pro Natura Lucomagno (G2)
- 12 Strada Alta path, Airolo - Biasca (F3)
- 13 Greina region (G0)
- 14 Santa Petronilla waterfalls, Biasca (G4)
- 15 Plumogna waterfall, Faido (E2)
- 16 Cableway and lake Tremorgio (E2)
- 17 Castle of Serravalle (G3)
- 18 Sasso San Gottardo (C1)
- 19 Church San Nicolao, Giornico (F3)
- 20 Dazio Grande, Rodi - Fiesso (E2)

## Ascona-Locarno

- 21 Cardada Impianti Turistici (E7)
- 22 Lido Locarno and Termali Salini & Spa (E7)
- 23 Lakeside and hamlet, Ascona (E7)
- 24 Slow Food: farina bona from the Onsernone Valley (D7)
- 25 Slow Food: ciccit from Maggia and Verzasca Valleys (C4)
- 26 Cableway San Carlo - Robieie (B3)
- 28 Brissago Islands (E8)
- 29 Sanctuary Madonna del Sasso, Orselina (E7)
- 30 Centovallina Railway Locarno - Domodossola (D7)
- 31 GoldenEye Bungee Jumping Gordola - Verzasca dam (F7)
- 32 Castle, old town and Piazza Grande, Locarno (E7)
- 33 Foroglio waterfall, Bavona Valley (B4)
- 34 Bridge Ponte dei salti, Lavertezzo (F6)
- 35 Church San Giovanni Battista, Mogno (D3)
- 36 Botanical garden of Gambarogno, Vairano (F8)
- 37 Teatro Dimitri, Versico (E7)
- 38 Sculpture School, Peccia (D3)
- 39 Bosco Gurin (B5)
- 40 Museum of the Verzasca Valley, Sonogno (E4)
- 41 Adventure Park Gordola (F7)

## Lugano Region

- 42 Tamaro Park, Rivera (G8)
- 43 Swissminiatur, Melide (G10)
- 44 LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura (G10)
- 45 Via Nassa, Lugano (G10)
- 46 Alprose chocolate museum, Caslano (F10)
- 47 San Grato Park, Carona (G11)
- 48 Splash and SPA Tamaro, Rivera (G8)
- 49 Cruises on Lake Lugano (G10)
- 50 Scherrer Park, Morcote (G11)
- 51 Village of Gandria (H10)
- 52 Gold Mine museum, Sessa (F10)
- 53 Hermann Hesse museum, Montagnola (G10)
- 54 Depiction of the Last Supper, Ponte Capriasca (G9)
- 55 Monte Tamaro - Monte Lema traverse (F9)
- 56 Funicular Monte Brè (G10)
- 57 Funicular Monte San Salvatore (G10)
- 58 Church Santa Maria degli Angeli, Tamaro (F8)
- 59 Church Santa Maria degli Angeli, Lugano (G10)
- 60 Zoo al Maglio, Magliaso (F10)
- 61 Malcantone forge, Miglieglia (F9)

## Mendrisiotto

- 62 Fossil museum of the Monte San Giorgio, Meride (G11)
- 63 Fiore di pietra, Monte Generoso (H11)
- 64 FoxTown, Mendrisio (G12)
- 65 Slow Food: zincarfin from the Muggio Valley (H12)
- 66 Casa del vino Ticino, Morbio Inferiore (H12)
- 67 Breggia Gorge Park, Morbio Inferiore (H12)
- 68 The three mills of the Muggio Valley (H12)
- 69 Archaeological Park Tremona (G12)
- 70 Ethnographic museum of the Muggio Valley (H11)
- 71 Cableway Brusino - Serriano (G11)
- 72 Vincenzo Vela museum, Morbio Inferiore (H12)
- 73 Arzo's marble quarries (G12)
- 74 Züst Gallery, Rancate (G12)
- 75 m.a.x. museum, Chiasso (H12)
- 76 Theater of architecture, Mendrisio (G12)

## Legend

- highway
- tunnel
- railway
- main roads
- peaks
- funiculars and cable cars
- lakes
- rivers

Scale 1:75,000

