

MORAT / MURTEN

JEWEL IN THE LAKE MURTEN CROWN

Murten, the capital of the Fribourg Lake district, is a case of love at first sight. The small Zähringen town, in its idyllic location overlooking Lake Murten, simply delights everyone. This is also attested to by the 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' label, which it obtained in December 2022. The Old Town has nestled against its defensive town walls since the Middle Ages. The walls are part of a fortification that is very well preserved and accessible, waiting to be explored. A real adventure, brimming with history that fascinates children and adults alike! Fortified towers, dungeons, narrow stairs and secret rooms bring Murten's turbulent history to life. The Battle of Murten on 22 June 1476, in which the Swiss Confederates defeated the army of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who then "lost heart", is still commemorated today. History buffs should visit the Murten Museum in the old mill, adjacent to the town walls. Sports enthusiasts take part in the legendary Mur-

ten run, a road race from Murten to Fribourg. Held every October, it commemorates the Swiss Confederates' victory. And for the young people of Murten, the school festival 'Solennität' at the end of June is an occasion to remember and celebrate. A stroll in the Old Town through quaint lanes and arcades, past impressive town houses and historic fountains, is a must for all visitors. The view from the 13th century castle extends over the deep blue water of Lake Murten to the vineyards on Mount Vully where winegrowers cultivate more than 20 varieties of grape, but mainly Chasselas and Pinot Noir. These splendid wines can be enjoyed in one of the typical taverns in the Old Town or on the bustling lakeside promenade, perhaps with a regional fish dish. This is a good time to discuss what to do next from a wide range of options that include cultural attractions, museums, boat trips, beaches, cycling tours and fine dining. >>



GOURMET TOUR



A movable feast – Pack your swimsuit and voucher booklet ('Genussbüchlein'), and set off on a leisurely gastronomic e-bike tour around Lake Murten. Power up with a slice of Murten's legendary creamy 'Nidelkuchen' before you head off to Avenches, cycling along the lake. From there it is on to Mount Vully, where you can savour some perch fillets and views of the vineyards, lake and mountains. At sunset, head to the lakeside Beach House of Hotel Bad Murtensee for a glass of Chasselas. >>

LAKE CRUISES



Lake Murten – A boat trip can be romantic, practical or gastronomic. But if it is the Attila Boutique Boatel, it can be totally hip, too. LNM, the shipping company that operates on Lakes Neuchâtel and Murten, offers 75-minute cruises around Lake Murten. The starting point is always Murten, but you can go ashore wherever you want, like Praz and its sun-drenched vineyards at the foot of Mont Vully. LNM runs year-round services, and tickets can be booked in advance. >>

DINE AND LIGHT



Immersive – A symphony of lights and culinary delights await you at the Hotel Bad Murtensee. An exquisite five-course dinner accompanied by a stunning 360-degree light show will be a treat for all the senses. >>

CITY OF LIGHTS



Let there be light – In 2016, Murten held its first Light Festival, brightening and bringing a touch of magic to the dark winter skies. Since then, the festival takes place every January, and now includes some 20 arteplages dotted around the 'Stedtli' and the lake shore which attract locals and visitors in their droves. The 8th edition will run from 17 to 28 January 2024 (2025: 15-29.1). >> All year round, the interactive 'Circuit Secret Murten Licht' experience takes visitors on an immersive and mysterious journey through the fantastic and poetic world of lights and dreams. >>

KEY DATES

- 515** First mentioned as a defensive site called 'Muratum'
- 1170** Town founded by the Zähringen dynasty
- 1476** Battle of Murten, victory of the Swiss Confederates over the Burgundians
- 2002** Expo.02 National Exhibition, Monolith in Lake Murten
- 2022** Murten awarded the 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' label

IN NUMBERS

- Population:** 9,414 inhabitants
- Languages:** German 82%, French 15%
- Altitude:** 453 m