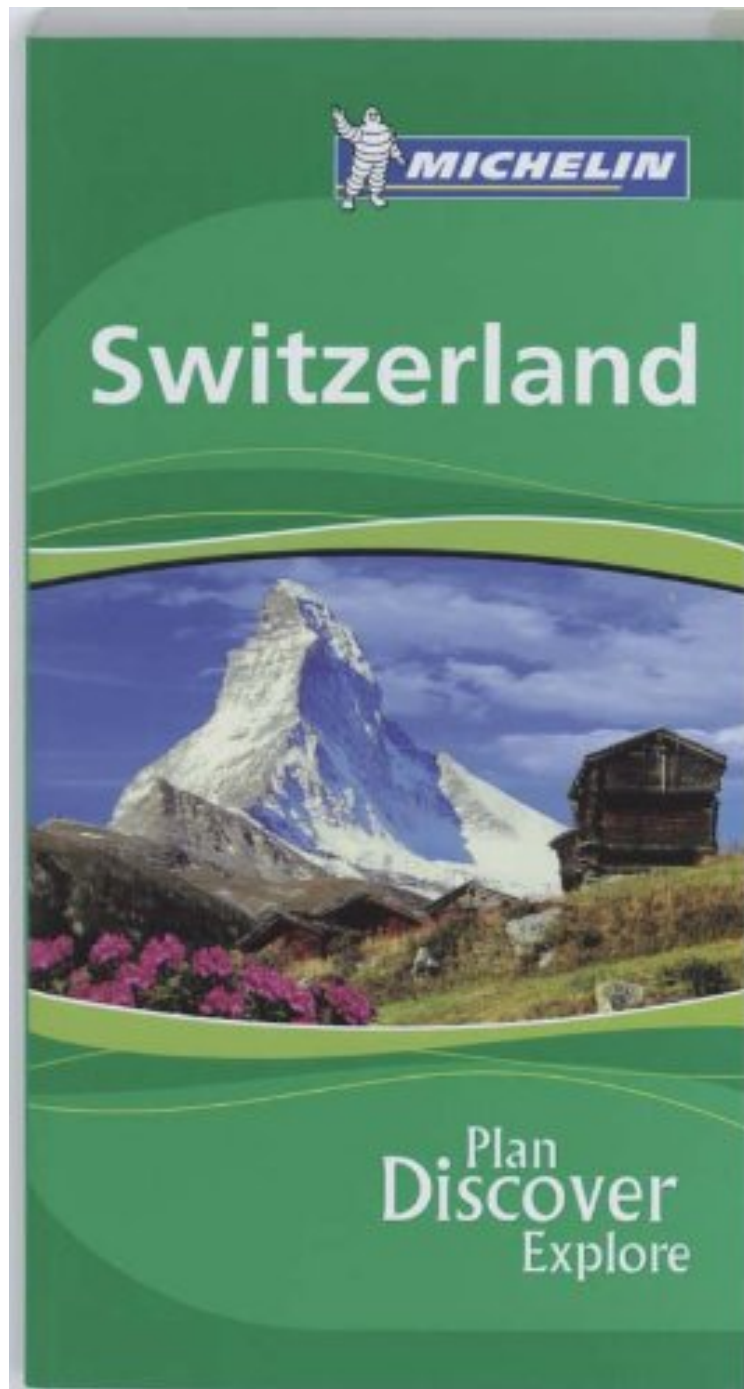


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From MICHELIN : Michelin the Green Guide Switzerland (Michelin Green Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Michelin the Green Guide Switzerland (Michelin Green Guides):

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Michelin Green Guide vs Lonely Planet (I like both books)!By M. Mierzwa
General Overview:I traveled to Switzerland by myself in 2005. In preparation for my trip I bought two travel guides from : Michelin's Switzerland: The Green Guide and Lonely Planet's Switzerland. I used both guides to aid me in deciding which cities I would visit during my two week vacation.Since I've bought and used other Lonely Planet guides (Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium and Luxembourg), I found myself relying more on the Lonely Planet Switzerland book than the Green Guide when planning my trip in advance. In fact, it was based on the Lonely Planet's great section on Lausanne that I opted to include that beautiful city as part of my holiday. However, I did make use of the Michelin Green Guide to supplement the Lonely Planet guide (particularly for scoping out Grindelwald, Zermatt, and Zurich). All of my actual hotel decisions were made using on-line reviews, but both guide books gave me a reasonable feel for how far it would be for me to walk from the train station to my hotel.I ended up bringing both books (both are small and light weight) with me on my trip, and found that I did not need either book during the day. In Switzerland most cities have a tourist information office located in the main train station. These offices provide free stadtplans (city maps) that point out major points of interest, and I found these maps were easy to fold into my back pocket and enabled me to "be bold" and head off in places that were only vaguely described in the guide books.
Comparison of the Two Books:The Green Guide really seems to focus more on tourism where you have access to a car. All of the points of interest are linked to colorful major road maps, but the Green Guide is lacking in providing the foot/train traveler in good directions to and from the train stations. Lonely Planet guides tend to be made with this type of traveler in mind, and though the Lonely Planet does a great job in describing self guided walking tours through major Swiss cities it too would sometimes talk about interesting castles, glaciers, or ice caves without providing specific foot or public transit directions (I ended up just asking the locals for directions ... and the Swiss are very friendly and easy to talk to).Since part of my joy about experiencing Europe is living without a car, if I had to choose between the two guides, I'd recommend the Lonely Planet for most people. However, in describing where I went and actually reading about the people and land itself, the Green Guide is a much more complete book. When I return to Switzerland I'll be carrying the Green Guide and not the Lonely Planet. The maps are really much better in the Green Guide, and the first 75 pages of the book offer a very detailed and comprehensive primer on what makes Switzerland unique and worth traveling to!If you can afford both books, I would buy the Green Guide first and read those first 75 pages as a primer. Then I start reading the Lonely Planet and use it to help narrow down which cities you'll visit. Thought he Lonely Planet has some history information (~60 pages), it also mixes in general travel advice in the introduction to Switzerland section that really waters down the fun of reading about a new place!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very helpfulBy Karen Hansen
This book has been very helpful in the planning stages of our upcoming rip, not only for where to go, but also where to stay as well as eat. It will be a good resource to take along.
27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Good general guideBy Jackie M. Bachenberg
I bought this guide because Eyewitness and Knopf do not make a guide to Switzerland. These are always my 1st choice. I guess I'm just a pretty picture addict. But I must say that this is a well-done book. It reminds me of the Baedeker's guides. In fact it's set up very similarly. The front section has information about Switzerland, history, famous people, plants, animals, etc. The center section contains information on places in Switzerland in alphabetical order. The back section contains helpful travel information. Things like traveling by plane, boat, car, train. It contains a listing of sights, their opening times and admission charges.They like Baedeker's, have a rating system for the various destinations with 3 being must see, and 1 being interesting. Keep in mind though when using these ratings that even if somewhere is rated 3 stars doesn't mean that it will be a 3 star experience for you. If the rating is for a modern art museum and you just "don't get it", then you probably shouldn't visit just on the strength of the book rating.
Another helpful feature is a map giving tours. Unfortunately, the description of these tours leaves a little to be desired. They could use some fleshing out. The map is good but the written description is confusing and lacking.They do list restaurants and lodging for the more major destinations, but these are limited and you'd be better off using a book dealing specifically with lodging (I'm sure Michelin would suggest their Red Guide).Overall this is a good general, getting started guidebook. Not the best, but a good second choice.

This title in the acclaimed Michelin Green Guide series is your indispensable guide to the cultural and natural highlights of Switzerland: cosmopolitan cities with their international institutions, famous museums brimming with art treasures, elegant ski resorts, charming villages, spectacular mountain scenery, snowy peaks, sparkling blue lakes, breathtaking views and the delicate beauty of rare alpine flowers.

