



# LIECHTENSTEIN



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## 1 CONTACT ADDRESSES

**Location:** Western Europe.

Diplomatic representation

Liechtenstein maintains very few overseas missions and is generally represented by Switzerland. For addresses, see Switzerland section.

Liechtenstein Tourismus (National Tourist Office)

Postfach 139, FL-9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein

**Tel:** 232 1443. Fax: 392 1618. E-mail: [touristinfo@lie-net.li](mailto:touristinfo@lie-net.li)

**Web site:** <http://www.princelymoments.li>

Switzerland Travel Centre

10th Floor, Swiss Centre, 10 Wardour St, London, W1D 6QF

**Tel:** (00800) 10 02 00 30 (toll-free; Europe only) or (020) 7743 1921. Fax: (00800) 10 02 00 31 (toll-free; Europe only) or (020) 7851 7437 4577. E-mail: [stc@stlondon.com](mailto:stc@stlondon.com)

**Web site:** <http://www.myswitzerland.com>

Switzerland Tourism

Address as for Switzerland Travel Centre.

**Tel:** (020) 7851 1700. Fax: (020) 7851 1720. E-mail: [russell.palmer@switzerlandtourism.ch](mailto:russell.palmer@switzerlandtourism.ch)

**Web site:** <http://www.myswitzerland.com>

Marketing and press enquiries only.

British Consulate

37-39 rue de Vermont, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

**Tel:** (22) 918 2400. Fax: (22) 918 2322.

**Honorary consulates in:** Lugano, Montreux/Vevey, Valais and Zurich.

Switzerland Tourism

608 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10020

**Tel:** (212) 757 5944 or (1 877) 794 8037 (toll free; USA and Canada only). Fax: (212) 262 6116.

E-mail: [stnewyork@switzerlandtourism.com](mailto:stnewyork@switzerlandtourism.com)

**Web site:** <http://www.myswitzerland.com>

**Note:** The US Embassy in Berne deals with enquiries relating to Liechtenstein (see Switzerland section).

Switzerland Tourism

926 The East Mall, Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 6K1

**Tel:** (416) 695 3496 or (1 877) 794 8037 (toll free; USA and Canada only). Fax: (416) 695 2774.

E-mail: [sttoronto@switzerlandtourism.ch](mailto:sttoronto@switzerlandtourism.ch)

**Web site:** <http://www.myswitzerland.com>

**Note:** The Canadian Embassy in Berne deals with enquiries relating to Liechtenstein (see Switzerland section).

**Country dialling code:** 423 (Liechtenstein). 41 (Switzerland).

## 2 GENERAL

**Area:** 160 sq km (61.8 sq miles).

**Population:** 32,015 (1998).

**Population Density:** 200.1 per sq km.

**Capital:** Vaduz. Population: 5106 (1998).

**Geography:** Liechtenstein shares borders with Austria and Switzerland and lies between the upper reaches of the Rhine Valley and the Austrian Alps. The principality is noted for its fine vineyards.

**Government:** Imperial Principality with a hereditary constitutional monarchy. Principality established in 1719. Head of State: Prince Hans Adam II since 1989. Head of Government: Prime Minister Mario Frick since 1993.

**Language:** German; a dialect of Alemannish is widely spoken. English is also spoken.

**Religion:** Christian, predominantly Roman Catholic.

**Time:** GMT + 1 (GMT + 2 from last Sunday in March to Saturday before last Sunday in October).

**Electricity:** 220 volts AC, 50Hz. European 2-pin plugs are used.

### **Communications:**

**Telephone:** Full IDD service. Country code: 423. Outgoing international code: 00.

**Mobile telephone:** GSM 900/1800 network. Handsets can be hired at the Telecom shop in Vaduz.

**Fax:** Most hotels have facilities.

**Internet/E-mail:** Internet access is available in phone booths operated by Swisscom. Charges are payable by phonecard or credit card. Public access is also available at the Telecom shop in Vaduz. ISPs include LIE-NET (web site: <http://www.lie-net.li>).

**Telegram:** Telecommunications are available from post offices and hotels. Service is reliable and efficient.

**Post:** Post office opening hours: 0745-1200 and 1400-1800 Monday to Friday, 0800-1100 Saturday (0745-1800 Monday to Friday, 0800-1100 Saturday in Vaduz). Post to European destinations takes three to four days.

**Press:** There are two daily newspapers, Liechtensteiner Vaterland and Liechtensteiner Volksblatt, and one weekly paper, Liechtensteiner Wochenzeitung. All are published in German.

**BBC World Service and Voice of America frequencies:** From time to time these change.

**BBC:**

MHz17.6412.109.4106.195

**Voice of America:**

MHz15.2111.979.7701.548

**3 PASSPORT**

*The passport and visa requirements for persons visiting Liechtenstein are the same as for witzerland. For further details, see the Switzerland section*

**Passport Required?**

Visa Required?

Return Ticket Required

**British****Australian****Canadian****USA**

OtherEU

Japanese

**4 MONEY**

**Currency:** Swiss Franc (sfr) = 100 centimes. For further information on currency, currency exchange, credit cards, travellers cheques, exchange rates and currency restrictions, see the Switzerland section.

**Banking hours:** 0800-1630 Monday to Friday.

**5 DUTY FREE**

The customs regulations for persons visiting Liechtenstein are the same as for Switzerland. For further details, see the Switzerland section.

**6 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

Jan 2 2001 New Year's Day. Jan 6 Epiphany. Feb 2 Candlemas. Feb 27 Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday). Mar 19 Feast of St Joseph. Apr 13 Good Friday. Apr 16 Easter Monday. May 1 Labour Day. May 24 Ascension Day. Jun 4 Whit Monday. Jun 14 Corpus Christi. Aug 15 National Holiday (Assumption). Sep 8 Nativity of Our Lady. Nov 1 All Saints' Day. Dec 8 Immaculate Conception. Dec 25 Christmas Day. Dec 26 St Stephen's Day. Dec 31 Bank Holiday. Jan 1 2002 New Year's Day. Jan 6 Epiphany. Feb 2 Candlemas. Feb 12 Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday). Mar 19 Feast of St Joseph. Mar 29 Good Friday. Apr 1 Easter Monday. May 1 Labour Day. May 9 Ascension Day. May

20 Whit Monday. May 30 Corpus Christi. Aug 15 National Holiday (Assumption). Sep 8 Nativity of Our Lady. Nov 1 All Saints' Day. Dec 8 Immaculate Conception. Dec 25 Christmas Day. Dec 26 St Stephen's Day. Dec 31 Bank Holiday.

## 7 HEALTH

	<i>Special Precautions</i>	<i>Certificate Required</i>
<b>Yellow Fever</b>	No	No
<b>Cholera</b>	No	No
<b>Typhoid and Polio</b>	No	-
<b>Malaria</b>	No	-
<b>Food and Drink</b>	No	-

Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. For more information, consult the Health appendix.

**Health care:** There is only one hospital in Liechtenstein, but the standard of medical facilities is very good. A reciprocal health agreement exists with the UK and other EEA member countries. To obtain emergency medical treatment, form E111 and a passport are required and a standard fee may be charged. Medical bills and form E111 should be sent to the National Office of the Economy for refunds. Dental treatment is not part of the state insurance scheme so must be paid for in full. All other international travellers are strongly advised to take out full medical insurance before departure.

Travel - International

**AIR:** The nearest international airport (and the most convenient for travel from the UK) is Zurich. For details of airlines serving the airport, see Switzerland section.

**Approximate flight time:** From Zurich to London is 1 hour 30 minutes.

**INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:** Zurich (ZHR) (Kloten) (web site: <http://www.zurich-airport.com>) is approximately 130km (81 miles) from Vaduz. Travel to Liechtenstein from Zurich can be continued by rail, bus or road. An autoroute connects the city with Liechtenstein (first exit: Balzers; further exits: Vaduz, Schaan, Bendern and Rugell). Cars can be hired through agencies at the airport for this journey, and in Liechtenstein.

**RAIL:** The best rail access is via the Swiss border stations at Buchs (SG) or Sargans (easier and closer when coming from Zurich) or the Austrian station at Feldkirch. All are well served by express trains and connected with Vaduz by bus. From Buchs it takes only 15 minutes by bus or 10 minutes by taxi.

**ROAD:** An autoroute (N13) runs along Liechtenstein's Rhine frontier to Lake Constance, Austria and Germany in the north, and southwards past Chur towards St Moritz. To the west there are autoroutes to Zurich, Berne and Basel. Traffic drives on the right. Bus: Local buses operate between all 11 villages, and to the Liechtenstein alpine area. Documentation: A national driving licence is sufficient.

**JOURNEY TIMES:** The following chart gives approximate journey times (in hours and minutes) from Vaduz to major cities in Europe.

Road	Rail	Zurich	1.30	1.30	Geneva	4.00	5.30	Munich	3.00	4.30
Frankfurt/M	6.30	6.00	Milan	4.30	5.30	Paris	10.00	9.00		

## 8 ACCOMMODATION

**HOTELS/GUEST-HOUSES:** Until recently, with few notable exceptions, the best hotels (although none of deluxe standard) were in or near Vaduz, but new establishments have now been built along the Rhine Valley and in the mountains. There are 44 hotels and guest-houses in Liechtenstein, with approximately 1300 beds in total. Eight hotels have an indoor swimming pool. In the alpine region, there are around 40 chalets and other self-catering establishments. Around 165 establishments belong to Gastronomie Liechtenstein, Hotel Kulm, Dorfzentrum, FL-9497 Triesenberg (tel: 237 7979; fax: 237 7978; e-mail: kulm@hotels.li; web site: <http://www.hotels.li>).

**INNS:** A Liechtenstein speciality is the mountain inn. All are at least 1200m (4000ft) up, but easily accessible by car. They are ideal for those seeking peace and quiet and clean air. Some of these inns have recently been enlarged and modernised.

**ALPINE HUTS:** There are alpine huts at Gafadura, 1428m (4284ft) high, which accommodate 50, and at Bettlerjoch Pfälzer-Hütte, 2111m (6333ft) high, which accommodate 88.

**CAMPING:** Campsites exist at Mittagspitze, FL-9495 Triesen (tel: 392 3677 or 392 2311; fax: 392 3680) and Bendern, FL-9487 Bendern (tel: 373 1211).

**HOLIDAY APARTMENTS/CHALETS:** Contact the local tourist office in Malbun, Triesenberg or Vaduz for information.

**Youth Hostels:** Liechtenstein's only youth hostel, Youth Hostel Schaan-Vaduz, is between Schaan and Vaduz, 500m (1640ft) away from the main road. It has sleeping accommodation for 96 (tel: 232 5022; fax: 232 5856).

## 9 SPORT & ACTIVITIES

Like neighbouring Austria and Switzerland, Liechtenstein has excellent wintersports facilities (though on a comparatively small scale). The main ski resorts include Steg and Malbun (see also Resorts & Excursions section). Malbun is popular on the international skiing circuit for its varied facilities, and is a particularly good resort for beginners. Steg is renowned for excellent cross-country skiing. In the summer, all the resorts are good starting points for walking tours. Gaflei at 1500m (4920ft) is the starting point for the Fürstensteig, a path along the high ridge dividing the Rhine and Samina valleys. Cycling is possible in the valleys and lower-lying areas, and there are 96km (56 miles) of cycling trails on both sides of the River Rhine. Mountain bikers may also use the hiking trails. Bicycles can be hired at cycling shops. Paragliding is gaining in popularity. Excursions can be arranged with specialist operators; contact the tourist board for further information. Bowling is a popular sport, catered for in several hotels.

## 10 SOCIAL PROFILE

**Food & Drink:** The cuisine is Swiss with Austrian overtones and there are a good number of restaurants. Liechtenstein specialities include Käsknöpfle, small dumplings with cheese. Drink: Some extremely good wines are produced in Liechtenstein, particularly Vaduzer (red wine). All internationally known beverages are obtainable. There are strict laws against drinking and driving.

**Nightlife:** There are cinemas at Vaduz and Balzers. Dancers congregate at the Maschlina-Bar and the Escape in Triesen; Tiffany in Eschen; Derby in Schaanwald; and Pacha and Schlosshof at Balzers.

**Shopping:** Prices and the range of goods are the same as Switzerland. Specialist buys include handmade ceramics, pottery, and Liechtenstein postage stamps. Shopping hours: Generally 0800-1200 and 1330-1830 Monday to Friday; 0800-1600 Saturday. From April to October souvenir stores in Vaduz are open Sunday and holidays.

**Special Events:** For a full list of events scheduled for 2001, contact Liechtenstein Tourism or Switzerland Tourism (see address section). The following is a small selection of events taking place in 2001:

Jun 22-24 2001 'The Little Big One' (international music festival), Vaduz. Jun 28-Jul 15 Filmfest, Mondscheinkino, Vaduz. Jul 7-14 LiGiTa Liechtensteinische Gitarrentage (Liechtenstein guitar festival featuring international artists, including concerts and courses), Eschen.

**Social Conventions:** Similar to northwest Europe. Regulations concerning smoking are becoming increasingly strict. Tipping: A service charge will be included in most bills.

## 11 BUSINESS PROFILE

**Economy:** The population of Liechtenstein is one of the world's most prosperous. Apart from the recession of 1992-1993, the economy has grown at an average rate of 3.5% during the last decade. Dairy and arable farming accounts for the bulk of Liechtenstein's agriculture; manufacturing industry processes and recycles metals, producing machine tools and precision instruments. Financial services are the fastest growing part of the economy: over 50,000 foreign corporations have taken advantage of the principality's banking secrecy laws to establish nominee companies which pay low taxes on either income and profits. International pressure has obliged the authorities to introduce some measures to deal with money laundering and other financial malpractice. With a very small domestic market, Liechtenstein has a large balance of payments surplus. The country has vital economic links with Switzerland, based upon a customs union, and uses the Swiss franc as currency. Liechtenstein joined the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in 1991 and the European Economic Area (EEA), the body established by amalgamating the EU and EFTA, in May 1995. Other than Switzerland, almost all Liechtenstein's trade is conducted with members of the EU.

**Business:** Personal visits and following all business formalities are very important. Times to avoid business visits include the Easter holiday, the second half of July and August, and the week after Christmas. Office hours: Generally 0800-1200 and 1330-1700 Monday to Friday.

**Commercial Information:** The following organisation can offer advice: Liechtensteinische Industrie- und Handelskammer (Chamber of Industry and Commerce), Josef Rheinberger-Strasse

11, FL-9490 Vaduz (tel: 237 5511; fax: 237 5512; e-mail: info@lihk.li; web site: <http://www.lihk.li>).

**Conferences/Conventions:** Although there is no conference association in Liechtenstein, a number of hotels have conference facilities and can organise conventions: Löwen in Vaduz, Schaanerhof in Schaan, Meierhof in Triesen, Kulm in Triesenberg, Gorfion and Malbuner-Hof in Malbun/Triesenberg.

## 12 CLIMATE

Liechtenstein has a temperate, Alpine climate, with warm, wet summers and mild winters.

**Required clothing:** Mediumweights with some lightweight clothing is advised for summer. Warmer heavyweights are worn in winter. Waterproofing is needed throughout the year.

## 13 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

**History:** The last remnant of the Holy Roman Empire, the pocket-size Principality of Liechtenstein is a prosperous independent hereditary monarchy. Liechtenstein's ruler of 51 years, until his death in November 1989, was His Highness Franz Joseph II. His son and heir, Prince Hans Adam (now His Highness Hans Adam II) was granted all the Regency's executive powers in 1984. The country is united with Switzerland in a Customs Union and represented by Switzerland abroad. The population shares German-Swiss traditions, values, social courtesies and behaviour, but remain proud of their independent status. From 1928 until 1970 the Progressive Citizens' Party (FPB) was the dominant political party in the country before the Fatherland Party (VU) took power in the 1970 election. The VU has held a majority in the Landtag, the Liechtenstein parliament, since then. Women, who make up two-thirds of the electorate, were debarred from voting until 1984, and were able to vote for the first time in the election of 1986. For the following election, held in March 1989, the number of seats in the Landtag was increased from 15 to 25, and the VU achieved a majority of just one seat. Four years on, this majority was lost as the Progressive Citizens' Party won 12 seats to the VU's 11 and FPB leader Markus Buechel led a coalition government. In February 1997, the VU won 13 seats and an outright majority, again of just one seat. The ecologist Freie Liste (Free List) won two seats and representation in the Landtag for the first time. VU party leader Mario Frick now holds the premiership. As a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Liechtenstein has joined the European Economic Area (EEA) creating a free trade area from the combined membership of the European Union and EFTA. A referendum on the issue in December 1992 produced a 56% vote in favour of the EEA; another referendum in April 1995 ratified the terms and Liechtenstein joined the EEA the following month. Economic relations with Europe and constitutional reform are the main political issues in the country at the present time. The European issue has in part been driven by the reigning Prince himself: in late 1993 he revised the Hausgesetz (the 'house code' of the ruling family), including in it the right for the population constitutionally to depose him or even abolish the monarchy altogether if they so wished. He also hinted that he would abdicate before the end of the century in favour of his son, Crown Prince Alois, but at the time of writing shows no sign of doing so despite growing tensions between himself and the Government.

**Government:** The single-chamber assembly, the Landtag, has 25 members directly elected every four years by proportional representation. The sovereign, a hereditary monarch, is head of state.

More countries : <http://www.umzugs.com>