# LIVING IN LUGANO AND SORROUNDINGS

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**GIS The International School of Lugano SA**

Sede attività didattica: Via Senago n. 42E, 6912 Lugano
Tel. +41 79 339 50 00. | E-Mail:admissions@gisschoollugano.ch
CHE-208.644.426

Some numbers:

## Switzerland

Surface: 41.285 Km2

Population: 8.530.100

Border countries:

Italy, Germany, Austria, France and Liechenstein

## Canton Ticino

Surface: 2.812 Km2

Population: 353.343

Border Cantons:

Canton Grigioni, Canton Uri, Canton Vallese, Lombardia (Italy) and Piemone (Italy)

## Switzerland

**Official languages**:

German (65,6%)

French (22,8%)

Italian (8,4%)

Romancio (0,6%)

**Capital**: Bern

## Canton Ticino

**Official language:**

Italian

**Capital:** Bellinzona

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**Distance from Lugano:**

Zurich = 204 Kms.

Basel= 268 Kms.

Genevre = 378 Kms.

Milan = 81 Kms.

Rome = 537 Kms.

Paris = 589 Kms.



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## CANTON TICINO

Canton Ticino is a region located in the southern part of Switzerland, bordered by Italy to the south. It is famous for its stunning natural landscape, by a combination of lakes, mountains and lush valleys.

Ticino is home to several beautiful lakes, with Lake Lugano and lake Maggiore being the most important. These lakes, surrounded by mountains, offer picturesque views and are popular for activities like boating, swimming and hiking.

The Canton is part of the Alps with mountains that provide stunning panoramas. Peaks like Monte Tamaro and Monte Generoso are famous for hiking and offer breathtaking views of Switzerland and Italy.

**Monte Tamaro** **Monte Generoso**

On Monte Tamaro it is located the Splash and Spa Monte Tamaro, which is a popular leisure complex providing water activities and wellness option. This is a family friend destination, offering entertainment for children while also catering to adults seeking for relaxation. The complex is easily accessible by cable car from Rivera. You can reach Rivera via car or by train.

*https://www.splashespa.ch/it/divertimento/*



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The region is shaped by valleys like the Verzasca Valley, known for its clear turquoise river, cliffs and charming stone villages. The Maggia Valley is another scenic area with wild landscapes and a rich variety of flora and fauna.

### Val Verzasca

### Valle Maggia

Ticino has a unique climate compared to the rest of Switzerland. Due to its southern location, it enjoys a more Mediterranean climate with warmer temperatures and sunny days especially in summer.

This mild climate makes it a great place for agriculture, particularly vineyards and olive groves.



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## LIFE QUALITY IN SWITZERLAND

Switzerland has a high quality of life and performs well in many dimensions of well-being relative to other countries in the Better Life Index. Switzerland outperforms the average in income, jobs, education, health, environmental quality, social connections, safety and life satisfaction.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Switzerland is around 84 years, three years higher than the OECD average of 81 years. As such, the country has the second-highest life expectancy in the world, which is the highest in Europe. In Switzerland, 96% of people say they are satisfied with the quality of their water, higher than the OECD average of 84%.

The Swiss healthcare system combines public, subsidized, and fully private schemes to create an extensive network of highly qualified doctors and hospitals. With a global reputation for being outstanding, you can find some of the most advanced medical facilities and shortest patient waiting times in Switzerland.

Switzerland's healthcare system is universal, therefore everyone there needs basic health and accident insurance to receive treatment.

Unlike other European countries, the Swiss healthcare system is not tax-based nor financed by employers. Instead, an individual's contributions to Swiss health insurance schemes fund the system. Many people top up the basic cover with supplementary private health insurance. Switzerland has one of the largest private healthcare markets in the world, with plenty of freedom of choice and competition.

Switzerland has around 60 registered health insurance companies, each offering the same benefits in their policies. Companies are obliged to accept anyone who applies, regardless of pre-existing health conditions. You can choose your own insurer and change company once a year if you give notice.



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The basic health insurance policy covers:

- Outpatient treatment by officially recognized doctors
- Emergency treatment
- A contribution to transport/rescue expenses
- Medicines prescribed by a doctor and on an official list
- Maternity checkups, tests, pre-natal classes, childbirth
- Gynecological checkups
- Vaccinations
- Rehabilitation after operations or illness
- Medical treatment when on short trips outside of Switzerland
- Some alternative therapies, like homeopathy, Chinese medicine, and chiropractic care

Each family member must be insured individually. Babies are included from birth, but to continue coverage, you must take out health insurance for your child within three months. Children don't need to be insured by the same company as their parents. Once a child turns 18, they are officially responsible for their health insurance payments.



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## WHERE TO LIVE

**For any support on accommodation, visas and any other type of services, kindly refer to:**

**Mrs. Helen J. Consiglio**
**RELOCATEINSTYLE SA**
Via Balestra n. 5 – 3rd floor
6900 Lugano/Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0)76 392 70 71
www.relocateinstyle.ch
helen@relocateinstyle.swiss

**Mr. Ciro Steffen**
**LA RELOCATION**
Via Cantonale n. 15
6815 Melide/Switzerland
Direct Mobile: +41 (0) 79 738 41 06
Office Phone: + 41 (0) 91 210 89 30
Office Mobile: +41 (0)79 464 00 51
c.steffen@larelocationgroup.com

**When choosing where to live, please check the municipality tax by clicking on the below link (Paradiso is the lowest one):**

**Moltiplicatori comunali - DC (DFE) - Repubblica e Cantone Ticino**

**Lugano** is the international city closest to Italy, not only for the language but also for cultural ties, for its large Italian community, for exchanges with the country and particularly with Milan. Lugano is chosen because it is an easy city to live, lively, safe and attentive to privacy.

Lugano is the largest city in Ticino and it is one of the most beautiful place to live.

The city of Lugano's development plan pays special attention to the environment and management of the urban spaces, increasing the number for green and leisure areas for its residents.

The plan provides for the creation of new parks, adding to the existing eight public parks and dozens of play areas distributed in the city's 21 neighbourhoods, for a total of 20 square kilometers of urban greenery and 48.5 square kilometers of forest area.

There are also several expat groups in Lugano, including the International Women's Club of Lugano and the Lugano English Speaking Group.

You can go around Lugano by walking and cycling. However it is well served with public transports.

**Distance Lugano – Gis The International School of Lugano = Km. 5 (13 minutes by car)**

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**Paradiso** is a small but vibrant municipality located just south of Lugano on the shores of Lake Lugano. Located between Lake Lugano and Monte San Salvatore, it offers breathtaking views and excellent opportunities for outdoor activities. It offers a lovely lakeside promenade with parks, bars, restaurants and shops. It has a cosmopolitan feel mixing residents from Switzerland and foreign. Paradiso is ideal if you wish a mix of natural beauty and high quality of life.

**Distance Paradiso – Gis The International School of Lugano = Km. 2,3**
**(7 minutes by car)**

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**Sorengo** is a charming residential area located just above Paradiso and provides a quieter residential environment. It is surrounded by parks, forests and lakes offering excellent opportunities for outdoor activities. Parco del Tassino and Lake Muzzano are nearby providing escapes from the city.

**Distance Sorengo – Gis The International School of Lugano = Km. 3,4**
**(8 minutes by car)**

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**Savosa** is a small residential area located in the north of Lugano, just 3-5 kilometers from Lugano center. Savosa is a quiet, family oriented environment, known for its peaceful atmosphere. A mix of Swiss and international residents contributes to a diverse community. The area is full of parks and greenery and nearby there is Parco San Michele ideal for walking, picnic or just to relax. Savosa has also sports facilities and local hiking trails.

**Distance Savosa – Gis The International School of Lugano = Km. 9,9**
**(11 minutes by car)**

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**Gentilino** is located on the western side of Paradiso. It is a picturesque and small village with traditional homes and peaceful environment. It is surrounded by greenery, vineyards and stunning views on the surrounding mountains and valleys.

**Distance Gentilino – Gis The International School of Lugano = Km. 3,7**
**(9 minutes by car)**

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**Melide** is a lakeside village just south of Paradiso. It is known for its beautiful promenade and as the home of Swissminiatur, a miniature park showing Swiss landmarks. It is a small village with calm and laid back vibe. However, it offers essential amenities, including shops, restaurants and a small marina. Due to its lake location, Melide is ideal for water sports such as sailing, kayaking and swimming as well as hiking in the surrounding mountains.

**Distance Melide – Gis The International School of Lugano = Km. 8,5**
**(10 minutes by car)**

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## Emergency numbers in Switzerland

**Good to know**

The most important emergency number in Switzerland is 112.

| | |
|---|---|
| Police | 117 |
| Firemen | 118 |
| Ambulance | 144 |
| Poison center /Tox Zentrum | 145 |
| Friend number | 143 (on payment Chf. 0.20/call) |
| Friend number for children and teenagers | 147 |
| FFS Transport police | 800 117 117 |
| Helpline Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) (Consular services) | 0800247365<br>From abroad<br>+41 800 247 365 oppure +41 58 465 33 33 |

More information on how to act in emergency/danger situation, please refer to (different languages available including English):

https://www.ch.ch/en/safety-and-justice/emergencies-and-danger#segnali-dallarme



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## HOSPITALS

The main hospitals in Lugano are:

**Ospedale Regionale di Lugano, Civico**

Via Tesserete n. 46

6900 Lugano

Tel. 0041 (0) 91 811 61 11

https://www.eoc.ch/ospedali-e-istituti/ospedale-regionale-di-lugano/civico.html

**Ospedale Regionale di Lugano, Italiano**

Via Pietro Capelli n. 1

6900 Lugano

Tel. 0041 (0) 91 811 61 11

https://www.eoc.ch/ospedali-e-istituti/ospedale-regionale-di-lugano/civico.html

**Clinica Moncucco**

Via Soldino n. 5

6900 Lugano

Tel. 0041 (0) 91960 8111

https://www.moncucco.ch/

## PEDIATRICIANS

### English speaking pediatricians

Please find here below some English speaking pediatricians and facilies in Lugano:

**Dr. Maura Zanolari Calderari**
Corso Pestolozzi 11
6901 Lugano
Contact : 0041 91 911 11 91

**Dr. Gianluca Bianchetti**
Via Monte Boglia n. 5
6900 Lugano

**Clinica Sant'Anna**
Via Sant'Anna n. 1
6924 Sorengo
Contact: 0041 91 972 70 00 or 0041 91 985 12 11

**Ospedale Regionale di Lugano (Civico)**
Via Tesserete n. 46
6900 Lugano
Contact : 0041 91 811 68 01

Pediatric services are provided, and this hospital is equipped for emergencies.



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## DENTISTS

### English speaking dentists

Please find here below some English-speaking dentists in Lugano you can take into consideration:

**Lugano Dental Clinic – Dr. Leandro Antonini**
Via Marconi n. 2
6900 Lugano
Contact: 0041 91 923 10 02
Website: https://www.leandroantonini.ch/

**Evidens Dental Clinic**
Via vedeggio n. 1
Manno
Contact: 0041 91 604 51 31
Website: https://www.evidens.swiss/

**Studio Dentistico Staub Rondi**
Via San Gottardo n. 71
Massagno
Contact 0041 91 967 45 67
Website: https://www.staubrondi.ch/

**VETS**

If you are looking for a veterinary clinic, there are several options:

**Ticino Animal Hospital**: this is 24/7 emergency hospital offering a wide range of service

https://ticinoanimalhospital.ch/;

**Ospedale Veterinario La Trinità**: also open 24/7, it is specialized in emergency care and offers services such as radiology and surgery. https://latrinita.ch/

**Clinica veterinaria Acacia**: located in Paradiso, this clinic provides medical, surgical and preventive care and works 24/7 emergency services.

https://clinicaveterinaria-acacia.ch/

**Centro Veterinario Cornaredo**: located in Porza this also offers 24/7 emergency care with added benefit of physiotherapy.

https://www.centroveterinariocornaredo.ch/en



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## PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN LUGANO AND SORROUNDINGS

Several bus companies operate in Lugano, separated into those running short distance trips and those designated for long journeys only.

First of all, Trasporti Pubblici Luganesi (TPL) has 16 lines that cover the city centre and reach the peripheral areas with 70 vehicles transporting around 12 millions passengers per year.

You can check the lines and the times on TPL.

The buses operated by the Autolineed Regionali Luganesi (ARL) connect the center of Lugano with the north districts :

- 19 Lugano Cornaredo-Cadro-Villa Luganese
- 441 Lugano-Canobbio-Lamone
- 461 Tesserete-Lugano-Villa Luganese
- 462 Lugano Centro-Trevano-Canobbio-Tesserete-Carnago

You can check the lines and the times on ARL.

All longer distance buses are operated by the national company, Postbus Switzerland. This is known locally in Lugano as Autopostale.

**Please see the below lines in the Lugano area:**

- 420 Bioggio Molinazzo FLP–Manno Suglio–Lugano Cornaredo
- 422 Lugano-Bioggio-Cademario
- 431 Lugano-Grancia-Morcote-Melide-Bissone
- 433 Lugano-Grancia-Carabietta-Cappella d'Agnuzzo
- 434 Lugano-Carona



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- 436 Lugano-Sorengo-Montagnola-Agra
- 442 Lugano-Vezia-Cureglia-Tesserete
- 443 Lugano-Porza-Comano-Tesserete
- 444 Lugano-Lamone-Bedano-Torricella
- 445 Lugano–Manno–Gravesano–Lamone-Cadempino FFS
- 447 Tesserete–Maglio di Colla–Cimadera–Sonvico
- 448 Tesserete–Bogno–Maglio di Colla
- Collina d'Oro Night Express
- Capriasca Night Express

You can check the lines and the times on AutoPostale.

**SNL - Società Navigazione del Lago di Lugano (Slow boat on Lake Lugano)**

- 439 Lugano-Campione d'Italia
- 490 Lugano-Gandria

You can check the lines and times on SNL.



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**FUNICULAR**

**Funicular Lugano station:** connects the area of Besso to Lugano centre.

Times: from 05.00 a.m. until 0.15 p.m. (365 days per year)

Length of the run: 1 minute and half

Price: CHF 1.30 /run

When and where to buy the tickets:

- Monday-Friday: 07.00 a.m. -19.00
- Saturdays, Sundays and festive days, Station FFS: 8.00 a.m. - 16.00
- Saturdays, Sundays and festive days, Piazza Cioccaro: 11.00 a.m. -19.00
- Possible to purchase the tickets at the automatic machine

Contact:

Trasporti Pubblici Luganesi SA
Ufficio Vendita e Informazioni
Fermata Lugano Centro - Corso Pestalozzi 2
6900 Lugano
t. +41 58 866 72 24/25
info@tplsa.ch
www.tplsa.ch

**Funicular Monte Bré**: the funicular takes you to the summit of Monte Brè in a quarter of an hour, tackling a height difference of 629 meters over a total route of 1,599 metres. You can take it either from Via Pico in Cassarate or from Via Ceresio in Ruvigliana.

To reach it, from the center of Lugano, you can take the Line 1 bus to the Cassarate-Monte Brè stop. From the station, however, you need to get on Line 2 and get off at the Lanchetta stop. It is also possible to park at Ruvigliana station or at Parco San Michele.

The funicular operates from morning to evening, from the first Saturday in March to 6 January.

Contact:

Società Funicolare Monte Brè
Via Ceresio di Suvigliana 36
6977 Ruvigliana
t. +41 91 971 31 71
info@montebre.ch
www.montebre.ch

**Funicular San Salvatore: T**he new panoramic funicular cars lead to the summit of Monte San Salvatore in 12 minutes. The 1,660 meter long line is divided into two separate sections of 830 m, each with a different inclination (the first reaches 37%, the second 61%).

It is located 500 meters from the Lugano-Sud motorway exit and a five-minute walk from the Paradiso FFS station

The funicular runs from morning to evening, from March to November, with runs every 30 minutes. In summer the last ride is at 11pm.

Contact:

Funicolare Monte San Salvatore SA
Via delle scuole 7 - CP 442
6902 Lugano-Paradiso
t. +41 91 985 28 28
info@montesansalvatore.ch
www.montesansalvatore.ch

## TRAVELLING BY TRAIN

The SBB CFF FFS (https://www.sbb.ch/it) is the Swiss national rail network.

It has plenty of connections across the country and serves Lugano and surroundings very well. The Italian company, Trenitalia, also connects Lugano with cities northern Switzerland and with Milan.

Trains also run within the Canton of Ticino, as administered by Treni Regionali Ticino Lombardia (TILO).

SBB FFS is recognized for its punctuality, sustainability initiatives and the quality of its trains and services.

## TAXIS

Around 200 taxis operate in Lugano. Only 50 have municipal authorization to park and wait for customers in the taxi areas of the City of Lugano.

TAXI association logo

Authorized taxi rates:

Starting rate: CHF: 6.00

Minimum fare: CHF: 18.00

Round trip: CHF 2.60 / km

One way: CHF 4.60 / km

One way on holidays + night

(from 10.00 pm to 6.00 am): CHF 5.20 / km

Round trip at night

(from 10.00 pm to 6.00 am): CHF 3.00 / km



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Waiting: CHF 65.00 per hour

Baggage (maximum 5 pieces): CHF 1.50 / unit - CHF 7.50 maximum

Surcharge for credit card payments: 2.5%

You can recognize taxis that have municipal authorization by the sign displayed inside the vehicle.

## AIRPORTS

### Lugano-Agno Airport

The Lugano Airport (Aeroporto di Lugano-Agno) is a small regional airport located in Agno, approximately 4 kilometers west of Lugano. Although it is used to operate regular commercial flights, the airport b now primarily handles private, charter and business flights as well as flight training operations. The airport is accessible by car and has a small, user-friendly terminal with parking facilities. Being a smaller airport, it offers limited services compared to major international airports but provide a comfortable and efficient experience, catering mainly to the needs of regional travellers.

Address:

Via Aeroporto, 6982 Agno

**Milan Malpensa Airport**

The nearest airport in Italy to Lugano is Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP). The distance between Lugano and Malpensa Airport is approximately 80 kilometers (50 miles) and the journey is typically takes around one hour by car.

Malpensa is a major international airport with numerous flights destinations worldwide, making it convenient option for travellers from Lugano needing broader flight options.

Daily trains connect Lugano to Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 of Milan Malpensa Airport and back. (https://www.sbb.ch/it)

You can read more information on Milan Malpensa airport:

https://www.milanomalpensa-airport.com/en

**Linate Airport**

**(Aeroporto di Milano Linate)** is one of Milan's main airport. Linate is about 90 kilometers (56 miles) from Lugano. The journey takes approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes by car or longer by train and bus. There is no direct shuttle between Lugano and Linate.

Linate is a great option for travellers heading to or from Milan, especially those who need short -haul flights within Italy and Europe.

You can read more information on Linate airport:

https://www.milanolinate-airport.com/en

**Orio al Serio International Airport**

This airport is located just outside Bergamo and it about 90 kilometers away from Lugano. This airport is well-known for being a key hub for low-cost carriers, especially Ryanair, which has extensive route across Europe. To travel from Lugano to Bergamo airport, it takes around 1.5 hours. You have to drive on Swiss motorway connecting to A9 and A4. Another option a train from Lugano to Milan Central and then a bus from Milan Central to Bergamo Airport. Some companies offer direct shuttle services from Lugano to Bergamo Airport.



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## CINEMAS and EVENTS

In Lugano, you can find many options for enjoying movies at local cinemas:

**CineStar Lugano**: a Popular multiplex that screens a wide variety of films, and 3D or 4DX screenings. Regularly screens blockbuster and independent films in their original language (mainly English). You can check their full schedule and purchase tickets online at their official site. *https://www.arena.ch/it/lugano/programmazione/biglietti*

**Cinema Lux in Massagno**: located near Lugano, this venue often features genre movies and screenings in original languages with subtitles. *https://www.jfcinema.ch/*

**Special Film Events**: Lugano also hosts film festivals, special screenings and other cinema events. You can stay updated through the Lugano Eventi portal.

**Locarno Film Festival**: it is one of the most prestigious events for auteur cinema taking place in Locarno every year. It is held in August and it showcases a diverse selection of films, including world premieres in various sections. For information and updates you can visit the official website of the festival: *Locarno Film Festival*.

## LAC (Lugano Arte e Cultura)

Lac Lugano is a multidisciplinary cultural centre, meant to host different artistic disciplines.

In Lugano, you can enjoy a variety of theatre performances at LAC.

For more details, visit the LAC website or Swiss tourism portal for a complete list of events.

https://www.luganolac.ch/lac/home.html;
https://www.luganolac.ch/en/lac/about/progetto.html



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## MAIN LIDOS

**The Lugano Lido** is located closed to the city with scenic view of the surrounding mountains. The facility included several outdoor pools, including a children's one as well as an Olympic pool for swimmers. It offers a lakeside beach for relaxing and enjoying water sports. The Lido has also a restaurant and a bar offering meals, snacks and drinks. During the year, Lido Lugano hosts cultural events, concerts and festivals.

**The Lido in Melide** offers beautiful lakeside setting with sandy and grassy areas. It offers a volleyball court for sport activities. A notable restaurant is available serving a variety of dishes enjoying local and international cuisine.

**The Lido San Vitale** is a scenic lakeside beach situated in the village Riva San Vitale. From there you can admire the stunning Monte Generoso. It is known for its beautiful green spaces, beach area, a playground and a beach volleyball. The location is very peaceful and has earned a place in the 10 tops lidos in Switzerland making it a popular destination for families and those who wish to relax.

**The Lido San Domenico** is a lakeside area in the Castagnola district of Lugano. It is famous for being a peaceful environment with facilities and a beach. It is easily accessible by boat or a short walk. The lido has recently been renewed improving accessibility for all visitors including those with disabilities.

**The Lido in Melano** offers beach with sand and a panoramic view. It laso has a volleyball court and access to the surrounding beautiful area.



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**SKI**

Switzerland is world-known for its ski resorts, offering a variety of terrains for all levels of skiers and snowboarders.

In Ticino, one of the most important is

Airolo-Pescium: it is part of the larger Gotthard ski region, offering over 30 km. slopes. It is suitable for beginners and intermediate skiers and snowboarders and it has great snow conditions throughout the winter.

To reach Airolo by train from Lugano, you can take a connection via SBB. The trip is around one hour and trains regularly run throughout the day. You have to change in Bellinzona as Airolo is not directly connected by a continuous line from Lugano.

Once you reach Airolo, a free shuttle bus will take you from the train station to the cable car departure point. Very easily you will be on the ski area.

Should you wish to move further from Lugano area, please refer to the below link with indication of the 10 best ski resorts in Switzerland with more information.

*https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-ch/experiences/winter/winter-bucket-lists/switzerlands-most-popular-ski-resorts/*



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