




 Aerial photograph, 2015
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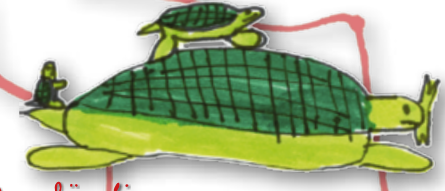
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 Zurich on foot
 A walk with children

1 Opernhaus (Opera)

The Opernhaus is a beautiful building, especially inside thanks to the hall filled with golden decorations, lovely spectator boxes and the ornamentally painted ceiling, entrance and the stairway. In earlier days, theatre was also performed here, and that's why the building's gable is still inscribed with «Stadttheater Zürich» (Zurich City Theatre). This first theatre in Zurich was established in 1834 in a former abbey church on Hirschengraben, but it burned down on New Year's Eve 1889. The current theatre on Bellevue was opened two years later, although primarily opera has been performed here since 1921. Starting in 1964 the old city theatre has been called the «Opernhaus». It continues to bring surprising productions to the stage including operas and ballet performances, and there are even special operas just for kids. A production doesn't just need singers and dancers, it often needs plenty of extras (in supporting roles). It is simply fascinating to sit in one of the seats and watch a performance. And if you're on stage, you'll see more than a thousand people watching and cheering.



Drawing: Siri Rutz.

2 Bauschänzli

The Bauschänzli is a man-made island in the River Limmat, just beside the Frauenbadi (women's bathhouse) and the Quaibrücke bridge. The island is accessible only from Stadthausquai street using a footbridge. Just like the Schanzengraben and the Lindenhof, the Bauschänzli is part of the last remaining sections of the old city fortifications. In the 30 Years' War it provided protection against attacks from the lake. Starting in 1747 the Bauschänzli became a public park, and from 1834, the City Engineer even grew vegetables here. Another 50 years later, it was possible to board a steam ship here and travel across Lake Zurich. For the past hundred years, in the summer months there is a large outdoor restaurant on the «Schanze», and at Christmas the Circus Conelli pitches its tent on this island.

3 Wasserkirche (Water Church)

The Wasserkirche got this name because at one time it stood on a small island in the middle of the river, whereas today only one side faces the water on the River Limmat. In the crypt, the room underneath the church itself, you can see a large boulder; it is a remembrance of Zurich's two patron saints Felix and Regula, who according to legend were beheaded on this spot. Why did that happen? The siblings Felix and Regula were Christians and were therefore persecuted by the Roman Emperor Maximian. With their servant Exuperantius they fled from the Valais region to Zurich, or Turicum as it was then called. Roman soldiers surprised them as they were praying and tried to force them to show allegiance to the Roman gods Mercury and Jupiter. Because both of them refused, they were tortured and then beheaded. Felix and Regula then picked up their heads in their arms. Angels carried them 40 steps up the hillside to the location where today the Grossmünster church is located with the grave of the two saints. You can learn more about Felix and Regula in the crypt in the Wasserkirche.

4 Lindenhof

Some 2000 years ago, Roman settlers lived on the Lindenhof, and before them Celts. In the Middle Ages, the King resided here in his castle (palace) while he was visiting Zurich. The city walls also had many towers. One of them was a small water tower, which still stands today, and young pigeons live inside it. Sometimes you can even feed them. In the middle of this square there is a mysterious white cobblestone which shows the image of a sheep with a Swiss flag – nobody knows what this means or who placed it there.



Stone at Lindenhof. Drawing: Nora Kutter.

5 Schwarzenbach

The Schwarzenbach colonial-style grocer's shop on Münsterplatz was opened in 1912, and today's interior furnishings are still from those days. In 1928, the shop added its own coffee roasting machine. The selection of products in this store grew wider over time. One thing that remains, though, is delicious, shop-roasted coffee from around the world. You can sample fresh coffee in the Schwarzenbach tea cafe. Beside this speciality, the store also sells tea, chocolate, nuts, dried fruit and many other delicacies.

6 Stüssibrunnen fountain

The Stüssibrunnen fountain is located directly next to the Lolipop store and the Metzgerei (butcher's shop) Z'Graggen on Stüssihofstatt. Things at this fountain aren't actually what they might seem: while it is indeed named Stüssibrunnen, the figure on the fountain isn't Zurich's thirteenth mayor Rudolf Stüssi but instead an unknown knight. And the basin comes from the Neptune fountain, which was previously located at Münsterhof, and that's why we sometimes also call this the Neptunbrunnen. There's one more special thing about this fountain: it's the only one in Zurich which is painted in colours.

7 Neumarkt - shopping at Ramos'

Our tip: buy your groceries at Mabilio Ramos' shop at Neumarkt 7! Ramos' prices are perhaps a little higher, but it would be a shame if small shops such as his were to disappear and there were only large supermarkets where everything is so impersonal. Ramos still works in the shop himself, something everyone thinks is fantastic and charming, and offers high-quality products.

8 Gottfried-Keller-Klaus

One of Switzerland's most famous writers, Gottfried Keller, was born in 1819 at Neumarkt 27, in the building named «Zum goldenen Winkel». As a young man he first wanted to become a painter. For 15 years, he also held the highest paid political office in Zurich as the First Official Secretary of the Canton of Zurich. Keller's most important novel is «Der grüne Heinrich» (Green Henry). However, he is also known for his short stories such as «Kleider machen Leute» («Clothes Make the Man»). This story deals with a tailor who wears fancy clothes even though he's actually quite poor. Everyone believes he is a count, and this gives rise to all sorts of difficult situations and misunderstandings. Keller died on 15 July 1890 at Zeltweg 27, and he is buried in the Sihlfeld Cemetery.



Gottfried Keller. Drawing: Sophia Gull.

9 Hirschengraben School

The name Hirschengraben comes from a city trench from the Middle Ages in which deer were kept from 1533 to 1784. The special thing about the Hirschengraben School is the mosaic dragon which was created from 1994 to 1996 by the class taught by Katrin Meier. On it, there is a slide which goes down the back and through its mouth. Until 1932, only girls attended school here. Today there are both boys and girls in one primary school class, four middle school classes and six secondary school classes.



Drawing: Oscar Genge.

10 Villa Tobler

A few steps behind the Kunsthaus (Museum of Fine Arts) is one of Zurich's loveliest villas, the Villa Tobler. Today it is home to the Theatre an der Winkelwiese. The building was erected between 1852 and 1855. Gustav Albert Wegmann, at that time one of the country's most famous architects, got the contract to build the villa from the banker Jakob Tobler. The house was intended to be both an office and commercial building. Today the garden is a public park where it's unbelievably pretty. Birds sing in summer, in autumn the coloured leaves transform the garden into a unique sea of colour, and in winter you can have snowball fights. An ornate fountain is hidden in the rear section of the garden, and it is decorated with a gleaming golden mosaic.



Fountain at the Villa Tobler. Drawing: Gianluca Keller.

11 Klausbrunnen fountain

The first fountain at this spot was built back in 1588. Around 1910, the well-known sculptor Arnold Hünerwadel got the commission to create a figure for it. Since then, on top of the column of the hexagonal shaped fountain is a Santa Claus who hates children and who wants to stuff them into his bag.



Drawing: Muriel Calibran.

12 Sechseläutenplatz at Bellevue

Until 130 years ago, a large grain market called the Kornhaus stood here. That building later served as a concert hall where a variety of events were held. In 1896 the old concert hall was demolished, and since then the square has not been developed and has been kept as open space. During World War II, potatoes were planted in this small meadow to help provide something for Zurich's population to eat. Since 1902, the böögg (a symbolic snowman) has been burned here, and since 1947 the square has been called Sechseläutenwiese (Sechseläuten Meadow) because during the Sechseläuten festival the parade of the trade guilds ends here. The redesign and transformation into a large city square was implemented in the years 2013 and 2014. During construction, artefacts from pile dwellers who lived on Lake Zurich 5000 years ago were uncovered.



Burning the böögg at the Sechseläuten festival. Drawing: Siri Rutz.



Drawing: Simon Sprecher.



Drawing: Atilla Schreiber.

Through the inner city on children's feet

Jessica is going to take us on two journeys. We're going back to the old days, and we'll be strolling through the inner city, Bürkliplatz, Lindenhof, Neumarkt – in the audio play «Salzwasserte» we get to know many well-known places in Zurich through the eyes of children. Many thanks go to the 4th to 6th year class from the Hirschengraben School for this exciting tour! It's important to the City of Zurich that children, too, are able to move about freely by foot. It is paying special attention to make sure those people who are somewhat unsteady when walking – specifically the very young, aged and disabled – can get where they want without any trouble.

Zurich on foot – always a new discovery

Zurich has countless tales to tell, and «Zurich on foot» brings a few of them to life. In the process, you'll see that our pedestrian infrastructure is already quite good, but we want to make it even better. Walkways should be designed to be direct, safe and attractive and be usable wherever possible with walking aids or baby carriages.

A third of all trips within the city are made on foot, and that provides proof as to which is Zurich's most important «means of transportation»: our feet!

I wish you much enjoyment while out and about.

Lucy

City Councillor Filippo Leutenegger
Head of the Civil Engineering and Waste Management Department

Duration of the walk:
approx. 1 hour

Originally published: 2010
updated: 2017

Imprint
Project management:
City of Zurich Civil Engineering Department
Contents and text:
The 4th to 6th year from the Hürlimann class at Hirschengraben School
Coordination and design:
www.anstalt.ch

Paper: RecyStar polar,
100% recycled paper



Zurich on foot:

- 1 The Inner City ↻
- 2 Wollishofen
- 3 Along the River Sihl ↻ ↴
- 4 Wiedikon ↴
- 5 Aussersihl und Hard ↴
- 6 Limmat and Zurich West ↻
- 7 University District
- 8 Witikon
- 9 Seefeld
- 10 Altstetten
- 11 Wipkingen ↴
- 12 Höngg
- 13 Affoltern
- 14 Oerlikon ↻
- 15 Schwamendingen
- 16 Seebach ↴

- 20 2000 Watt Society ↻
- 21 All about football ↻
- 22 With children ↻
- 23 All around water ↴
- 24 Discovering Uetliberg's yew trees

↻ audio play available
↴ unobstructed path

Orders, equipment loans and information:
City of Zürich Civil Engineering Department: 044 412 50 99,
www.stadt-zuerich.ch/stadtverkehr2025



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