



Aerial photograph, 2015
 0 50 100 150 200 250m

1 Alfred Escher Fountain
 A figure symbolising a new beginning in the 19th century

2 The River Sihl and the old barracks
 The canalised river bed is being discovered as an urban recreation area

3 Schanzengraben
 The moat was part of the city's stronghold

4 Rennweg
 Witness of medieval town planning

5 Current city model of Zurich
 A view of the city today and perhaps how it will be tomorrow

6 Urania multi-storey car park, Oetenbach monastery
 Roman gold and monasterial mysticism

7 Lindenhof terrace
 Once the centre of power, now a contemplative open space

8 St. Peterhofstatt
 The clock's dial dating from 1539 is thought to be the biggest in Europe

9 Thermengasse
 A highlight of Roman bath culture

10 Münsterhof
 The square was once a cemetery

11 Paradeplatz
 From pig market to banking centre

12 Fraumünster cloister
 Murals depicting the legends of Zurich's founding

13 Grossmünster cloister
 Stone monsters and mythical creatures

14 Leuenplätzli
 Open space in the middle of the old town

15 Zurich 200 years ago
 The city model in Haus zum Rech

16 Zähringerplatz/Spitalgasse
 Part of an unfinished development in 1877/78

17 Niederdorfstrasse
 A medieval main road



Zurich on foot
A walk through the Inner City

1 Alfred Escher Fountain

Alfred Escher (1819–1882), a cantonal and national councilor, the founder of Credit Suisse and the patron of the Gotthard railway. The station (1865–1871) and Bahnhofstrasse bear witness to the city's development in the 19th century. Between Stadthausanlage and Rennweg the new boulevard replaced the medieval moat.

2 The River Sihl and the old barracks

The now canalised and tamed Sihl was a permanent threat to the urban area of Zurich for centuries. Sihlfeld and the Inner City were a huge river delta in prehistoric times (see picture). The taming of the Sihl river has had a dominant influence on the Zurich area from Celtic and Roman times up to the modern age. The barracks were erected in 1873–1875 on the borders of the city and the village of Aussersihl.



The River Sihl and its delta 3000 years ago. Red: Site of the barracks' stables. Map: Zurich Archaeological Dept.

3 Schanzengraben

Part of the city's baroque stronghold built in the 17th century and demolished after 1830. The moat and its bastions were originally much more structured. View map on the right.



Left: Entrenchments on the Müller map of 1788/93. Red: Site of the bridge today. Right: The same area today. Illustrations: Zurich Archaeological Dept.

4 Rennweg

Systematically developed district dating from the 13th century. The medieval Rennweg gate was replaced in 1521–1525 by the mighty Rennweg bastion. This city gate formed the western corner of the city until the construction of the baroque moats. It was demolished in the 1860s during the building of Bahnhofstrasse.



Rennweg Fortress in 1860, shortly before its demolition. Photography: Archive of Building History

5 Current city model of Zurich in Amtshaus IV

Open to the public and attractively presented in the mezzanine of Amtshaus IV (entrance on Lindenhofstrasse). The model is used among other things by the city authorities to examine building projects.

Opening times: Weekdays 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Groups and weekends: by request, phone 044 412 45 54



Photography: Heinrich Helfenstein.

6 Urania multi-storey car park, Oetenbach monastery

Mural in the main entrance between the pay point and the lift showing photos and maps of this district's history, including a Roman treasure trove, the medieval Oetenbach monastery, the first cantonal prison in the old monastery grounds and the Uraniastrasse earthworks in the early 20th century.

7 Lindenhof terrace

The top of a moraine hill where in late Celtic times the settlement of Turicum/Zurich originated. The present Lindenhof terrace mainly dates back to the late Roman fort. In the Middle Ages it was a royal palace («palatinate») where the leader of the German Empire sometimes resided, it was demolished in the 13th century and has been an open space since then.

8 St. Peterhofstatt

St. Peter's Church is one of the oldest in the city and was the only one not belonging to a monastery. On this exposed spot there had possibly already been a Celtic-Roman sanctum. The tower originates from the 13th century and accommodated a firewarden until the early 20th century. In 1366 the city's first clock was fitted, the present one is from 1539.

9 Thermengasse

Remains of the Roman baths in Zurich going back to the 1st century AD. Parts of the large oven (praefurnium) and the columns of the heating system (hypocaust) under the warm tepidarium and caldarium rooms are preserved. The ruins are illustrated on site with plans and reconstructions.

10 Münsterhof

The square that had originally been occupied by the Fraumünster cemetery and various other buildings has been about the same size and shape since the 13th century. In 2016, it was extensively renovated and designed as an original free space.

11 Paradeplatz

Open space in front of the Wollishofen gate of the medieval city wall. Sometimes used as a livestock market, thus the old name «Säumarkt» (pig market).

12 Fraumünster cloister

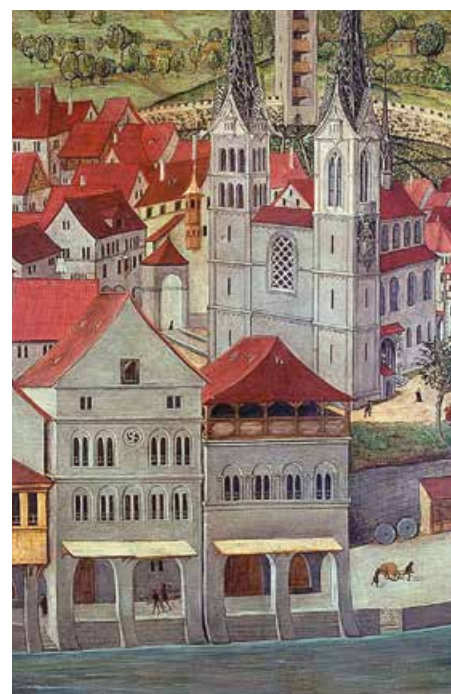
Founded in the 9th century as a royal convent. The current church dates mainly back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Around 1900 the old convent was demolished and the town hall was built. The cloister was rebuilt using original Romanesque parts. A series of paintings by Paul Bodmer (1932-1941) shows the legends of Felix, Regula and Exuperantius, the decapitated patron saints of Zurich, as well as Charlemagne in Zurich (the snake) and the founding of the Fraumünster (the stag).

www.fraumuenster.ch

13 Grossmünster cloister

A canonical monastery founded on the graves of the city's patron saints Felix and Regula. The present-day building is from the 12th and 13th century. The towers were steepled until 1763 when fire destroyed the bell tower. The buildings added onto the east side were pulled down in 1850 and replaced. In the courtyard there is an important Romanesque cloister dating from 1170/80.

www.grossmuenster.ch



Grossmünster on the altar painting by Leu, around 1500.

14 Leuenplätzli

Open space with trees in the middle of the old town, resulting from the demolition of a group of houses in 1938. The Grimmenturm, Spiegelgasse 19 (13th century), towers above the square, part of a castle-like annexe inhabited by the nobility.

15 Haus zum Rech, city model of Zurich around 1800

Stately town house with structural parts and decoration from eight centuries. On the ground floor the city model shows Zurich around 1800, before the ramparts were removed and the city started expanding in the 19th and 20th century. In the reading room of the Archive of Building History (1st floor with painted wooden ceiling from 1600) historical documents are available, as well as the keys for the archaeological displays in Lindenhofkeller, Stadtmauerkeller, Ehgraben etc.

Opening times: Weekdays 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



Part of the city model in Haus zum Rech. Photography: Zurich Archaeological Dept.

16 Zähringerplatz/Spitalgasse

The Zähringer Square, created in 1877/78 by Arnold Bürkli, was part of the planned development of the old town that was never completed. Spitalgasse, which gets its name from Zurich's first hospital mentioned as early as 1204, was also created in this time, after the new Cantonal Hospital (1837–1839) had been built on a different site.

17 Niederdorfstrasse

The axis Niederdorfstrasse/Münstergasse/Oberdorfstrasse was the main road in this part of the old town until the 18th century. The Limmatquai embankment was created as late as the 19th century.

On foot in the Inner City

This stroll leads you from one model of the city to another and gives you insight into the eventful history of Zurich's inner city. We can be proud of our lovely inner city. It is just as important, however, that Zurich not only have an attractive centre but that the design, cleanliness and infrastructure is of the highest quality in the outlying districts of the city, as well.

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.

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

Duration of the walk:

approx. 1½ hours

Originally published: 2005
updated: 2017

Imprint

Project management:
City of Zurich Civil
Engineering Department
Contents and text:
Dölf Wild, Zurich City Planning Office, Archaeological Department
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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