

# City portrait

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This city portrait contains a selection of information on Lucerne.

All the services and forms provided by the municipal administration may be found by visiting the city's online portal.

+ [www.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.stadtluzern.ch)

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# 1 Politics



Lucerne is the capital of Canton Lucerne and has a population of some 83,700 residents (as at 31 December 2013).

+ [Resident statistics – Lucerne](#)

## Resident surgeries with the mayor

The mayor of Lucerne, Beat Züsli, holds regular surgeries for the city's residents, offering them the opportunity to air any issues they might have. The mayor is keen to strengthen ties with the residents, listen to their concerns and offer solutions. Appointments must be arranged through the mayor's office. Appointments (per person or group) are limited to 15 minutes and take place between 17:00 and 19:00.

+ [Resident surgeries](#)

## City council

The city council is the executive authority of the City of Lucerne and comprises five members, each presiding over one of the city's five directorates.

+ [www.stadtrat.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.stadtrat.stadtluzern.ch)

## City parliament

The city parliament is the legislative assembly and comprises 48 seats. It meets in the town hall on the Kornmarkt. Meetings, which are open to the public, take place once a month on a Thursday.

+ [www.grstr.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.grstr.stadtluzern.ch)

## Children and youth parliament

The City of Lucerne has had a children's parliament and a youth parliament since 1997. In accordance with the city's municipal constitution, these two parliaments may submit parliamentary motions for consideration by the city parliament.

+ [www.kinderparlament.ch](http://www.kinderparlament.ch)

## 2 Safety and traffic



Lucerne's fire brigade is on call around the clock.

The city police force's own fire-fighting unit is the first to respond to an alarm: it tackles and assesses the emergency. Around half of all call-outs are dealt with entirely by this unit. If the resources of the police force's fire-fighting unit are not sufficient to contain the situation, it summons the fire brigade personnel, wherever they may be, via a paging and telephone alarm system.

+ [www.feuerwehr.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.feuerwehr.stadtluzern.ch)

### Lucerne police force

In June 2008 Lucerne's city and cantonal parliaments voted to merge the city and cantonal police forces. The merger was completed on 1 January 2010.

Enquiries and information: tel. 041 248 81 17.

+ [www.polizei.lu.ch](http://www.polizei.lu.ch)

### Safety – Intervention – Prevention (SIP)

The men and women of Lucerne's SIP group coordinate their activities with the police, roads inspectorate and private individuals with a focus on cleanliness and safety/security in the public realm. The SIP group does not have police powers and legal reasons prevent it from issuing fines. The enforcement of cleanliness and public order occurs at a communicative and psychological level, i.e. through persuasion and by establishing trust. In critical situations, the group can call on the police to attend.

+ [www.sip.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.sip.stadtluzern.ch)

### Public transport

Buses and trolleybuses operated by the city's public transport operator, vbl, run from five in the morning to after midnight.

+ [www.vbl.ch](http://www.vbl.ch)

Lucerne, Obwalden and Nidwalden regional fare network

+ [www.passepartout.ch](http://www.passepartout.ch)

Swiss Federal Railways (SBB/CFF/FFS)

+ [www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch)

Lake Lucerne Navigation Company (SGV)

+ [www.lakelucerne.ch](http://www.lakelucerne.ch)

### Car parking

The parking guidance system provides up-to-the-minute information on the availability of parking bays in the city's car parks. Electronic displays indicate the total number of bays available. This avoids drivers adding to the traffic by hunting around for a space.

+ [www.pls-luzern.ch](http://www.pls-luzern.ch)

## 3 Environment and waste



Lucerne is keen to maintain its high quality of life. It wants its residents to enjoy life here. Aside from the city's urban and scenic attractions, what contributes greatly to the high quality of life in Lucerne is the care the resident population takes of its environment. The city's environmentally responsible waste disposal policies are key in this regard. Lucerne's waste is incinerated at the Renergia facility in Perlen. Its wastewater is processed at the Buholz treatment plant in Emmen. The city also offers a trimming and lopping service for hedges and trees twice a year. Residents can also subscribe to a waste reminder service: this sends out SMS text and email reminders the day before recyclables (paper, cardboard, metal) are collected.

The REAL municipal association is responsible for waste disposal services in Lucerne and 21 other municipalities in the conurbation. A REAL hotline is provided for all waste-related queries: 0800 22 32 55 (0800 ABFALL)  
[+ www.real-luzern.ch/](http://www.real-luzern.ch/)

A hotline is also provided for queries relating specifically to collection services in the city itself: 041 429 80 20.

[+ www.abfall.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.abfall.stadtluzern.ch)

### Energy

The City of Lucerne provides funding for renewable energies and the efficient, environmentally responsible application of energy. Grants from an energy fund are available for energy-conscious construction and refurbishment and for the use of renewable energy.

The funding extends to climate protection projects, environmental training and the dissemination of eco-information.

[+ www.energie.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.energie.stadtluzern.ch)

### Umweltberatung Luzern

This environmental consultancy and eco forum is an institution of the City of Lucerne located in the Bourbaki Panorama building in Lucerne. Together with Umsicht, the agency for environment and communications, it provides Canton Lucerne with advice on environmental matters. It also hosts an extensive environmental library comprising some 4000 books and audio books, 1300 DVDs and 80 games with an environmental or nature-related theme. Umweltberatung Luzern also offers, on a daily basis, 20 non-personal GA travelcards (municipal one-day travelpasses) in second class. These travelcards allow unrestricted travel throughout the Swiss Federal Railways and PostBus networks and on many of Switzerland's waterways.

[+ www.ublu.ch](http://www.ublu.ch)

### Environmental protection.

The City of Lucerne's Environmental Protection department is the body which oversees the protection and conservation of natural resources and landscapes and provides technical environmental protection. It is tasked with reducing the city's environmental footprint, upgrading the urban

living environment for people, flora and fauna, and improving the quality of life.

+ [www.umweltschutz.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.umweltschutz.stadtluzern.ch)

## 4 Events



Lucerne benefits from a wealth of public places and facilities which are suitable for events and are well served by various means of transport.

The body responsible for the city's urban spaces and events is the first point of contact for promoters wishing to use the public sphere for their event and requiring a licence to do so.

It fields promoters' enquiries, issues information and involves the relevant authorities for further consideration and approval.

+ [www.veranstaltungen.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.veranstaltungen.stadtluzern.ch)

### Markets

Lucerne is known for its many markets, which deal in everything from local produce, goods and bric-a-brac to craftwork and Christmas trees. They include the Wochenmarkt, Fischmarkt, Monatswarenmarkt, Blumenmarkt, Flohmarkt, Handwerksmarkt, Kilbimarkt, Herbstmesse and Christbaummarkt. See the website for information and enquiries.

+ [www.maerkte.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.maerkte.stadtluzern.ch)

### Room hire

The city has a variety of rooms available for functions and meetings in the Stadthaus (town hall), Rathaus, Am-Rhyn-Haus, Südpol and Schlössli Wartegg.

+ [Room hire](#)

### Carnival in Lucerne

Traditionally beginning on *Schmutziger* Thursday and ending on Ash Wednesday, carnival in Lucerne for many locals is the high point of the year. On the stroke of five on the Thursday morning, the city quakes to the cacophonous sound of 50-plus *Guuggen* carnival musicians all converging on the Old Town.

+ [www.fasnacht.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.fasnacht.stadtluzern.ch)

## 5 Culture and sport



Lucerne is the cultural centre of Central Switzerland. It is home to a number of cultural institutions, while numerous artists from every discipline live and work here. Lucerne's contribution to culture is significant and attracts visitors from home and abroad. The Lucerne Festival appears in three editions every year (summer, autumn and Easter): the best-known of the festivals to take place in the city, it enjoys international acclaim.

### Promotion of culture

The City of Lucerne provides support in the form of funding and advice for individuals engaged in the cultural sector, promoters and institutions. Relevant sources of finance include the FUKA fund and grants from the city and Canton Lucerne.

+ [www.kultur.stadtluern.ch](http://www.kultur.stadtluern.ch)

### Interessengemeinschaft Kultur Luzern (IG Kultur)

This community of interests with a focus on culture is the umbrella association for cultural organisations and institutions in Lucerne and its conurbation. Information and advice are handled by the Kultur-Forum. It publishes a monthly cultural magazine that, amongst other things, lists forthcoming cultural events.

+ [www.kulturluzern.ch](http://www.kulturluzern.ch)

### Clubs and associations

Lucerne is home to 400-plus leisure and sports organisations. Its neighbourhood associations make an important contribution to city life.

+ [www.luzern.ch/vereine](http://www.luzern.ch/vereine)

### Sport promotion and facilities

Lucerne provides financial and advisory support to private organisations, clubs/associations and promoters for sporting activities. The city's Sports Commission is the body that briefs the city council on all sport-related matters. The Department of Culture and Sport is responsible for letting and coordinating the city's outdoor and indoor sports facilities and playing fields.

+ [www.sport.stadtluern.ch](http://www.sport.stadtluern.ch)

## 6 Education



Public schooling in Switzerland encompasses three levels of education: kindergarten, primary school, and secondary school up to Year 9. The period of compulsory schooling in Switzerland after kindergarten generally spans nine years (six in primary school, three in secondary school).

+ [www.volksschule.stadtluuzern.ch](http://www.volksschule.stadtluuzern.ch)

### Upper-secondary schools

The *Fach- und Wirtschaftsmittelschulzentrum Luzern* (upper-secondary specialised and commercial school) encompasses the *Berufsmittelschule Gesundheit und Soziales* (upper-secondary vocational school focusing on health and social welfare), the *Fachmittelschule* (upper-secondary specialised school), the *Wirtschaftsmittelschule* (upper-secondary commercial school) and the *Fachklasse Grafik* (specialised course in graphic design).

+ [www.beruf.lu.ch/fmz](http://www.beruf.lu.ch/fmz)

The *Kantonsschule* (cantonal school) Alpenquai Luzern offers a 6-year long-term gymnasial education with the option of completing a bilingual baccalaureate in English. This school also offers a sports and music course that follows a short-term gymnasial curriculum.

+ [www.ksluzern.ch](http://www.ksluzern.ch)

### Tertiary-level A institutions

Individuals wishing to gain a vocational baccalaureate, e.g. by attending the *kaufmännische and gewerbliche Berufsschulen* (upper-secondary level commercial and vocational schools) in Lucerne, Emmen, Sursee or Willisau, are then able to enrol in a tertiary-level A institution.

+ [www.schulen-luzern.ch](http://www.schulen-luzern.ch)

### University

The University of Lucerne is composed of the three faculties: Theology, Humanities and Law. Each of the degree programmes consists of two stages. The six-semester programmes conclude with the awarding of a bachelor's degree. A master's degree is awarded after a further three semesters.

+ [www.unilu.ch](http://www.unilu.ch)

### Music school

The *Musikschule der Stadt Luzern* (the city's own music school) offers singing, instrumental and ensemble tuition for children and adults.

+ [www.musikschuleluzern.ch](http://www.musikschuleluzern.ch)

### City library and Ruopigen library

Lucerne's city library has become a clearing house for modern communications by providing up-to-the-minute media and information. It offers a well-arranged selection of books and other media. Ruopigen library forms part of the city library. It is located in the centre of Ruopigen.

+ [www.bvl.ch](http://www.bvl.ch)

## Vocational guidance

The vocational guidance service helps young people make their first career choice and adults plan their career trajectory. It offers comprehensive information on careers and education/training.

+ [www.berufsberatung.ch](http://www.berufsberatung.ch)

## 7 Business and tourism



The shortest link between northern and southern Europe in the early Middle Ages was the main reason for the emergence of a settlement at the outlet of Lake Lucerne. Lucerne was the trade route's transshipment centre for transferring goods between mules/carts and boats. Lucerne soon established itself as a key market and trading place.

The city maintains a goods market by the River Reuss to this day (market days Tuesday and Saturday). It contributes much to the vibrancy and diversity of life in the city. Over the centuries, Lucerne has assumed the role of business, tourism and commercial centre of Central Switzerland. It acts as a magnet for professionals across all sectors and from all parts of the region.

+ [www.wirtschaftsfragen.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.wirtschaftsfragen.stadtluzern.ch)

### Business development

The agency charged with promoting business in Lucerne takes care of the operational aspects of business development. This includes promotion, relocation and corporate development, as well as developing and maintaining relations with the canton, municipalities, the business community and organisations.

+ [www.luzern-business.ch](http://www.luzern-business.ch)

### Statistics

LUSTAT Statistik Luzern is the agency charged with providing statistical information on all aspects of life – business and social – in the city and canton. It is the first point of contact for all questions involving figures and time series, and offers a wealth of appealing and interactive visualisations.

+ [www.lustat.ch](http://www.lustat.ch)

### Conferences, shows and exhibitions

International congresses and conferences, trade fairs and exhibitions provide opportunities for forging contacts worldwide. The city possesses a portfolio of venues and equipment for professional gatherings, meetings and seminars of all sizes. The portfolio is to be developed and modernised over the coming years.

+ [www.messeluzern.ch](http://www.messeluzern.ch)

### Lucerne Tourism Ltd. (LTAG)

Lucerne Tourism Ltd. (LTAG) is the first point of contact for all questions concerning tourism in the Lucerne – Lake Lucerne Region. Lucerne's success as a tourism destination is due to a combination of LTAG's efforts to promote the brand across the globe, and the quality of the services and amenities offered to visitors.

+ [www.luzern.com](http://www.luzern.com)

## 8 History and archive



Anyone moving to Lucerne soon senses that the region either side of the bay and along the River Reuss is rooted in European history. Initially huddled around a Benedictine abbey in the 8th century, the settlement won its independence from the pastoral rule of Murbach monastery in 1178. With a route established up and over the Gotthard Massif in the 12th century, the diminutive fishing village at the end of the lake began flexing its muscles as it encountered cultures from the Mediterranean. Due to its enviable location on the north-south trading axis, Lucerne grew to become a key transshipment centre between land and lake, not unlike Zurich, Constance and Geneva before it.

### City archive

The city archive is where city records deemed to be worthy of preserving are kept. The archive relocated to a new building at Ruopigenstrasse 38, 6015 Lucerne in October 2015.

+ [www.stadtarchiv.stadtluzern.ch](http://www.stadtarchiv.stadtluzern.ch)

### Lucerne's history – a time line

8th century	Founding of a monastery in the court.
1178	Founding of a lay institution in St. Peter's Chapel; probable founding of the town.
1210	First reference to inhabitants of Lucerne as "burgenses".
1223	Barefoot monks (Franciscans) arrive in Lucerne.
1229	School in the court.
1252	"Sworn letter" (peace in the town).
1274	Rudolf I of Habsburg places the town under imperial protection.
1291	Transfer of Lucerne to the House of Habsburg.
1332	Lucerne concludes a pact with Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden; accession of Weggis and Gersau.
1343	Citizen's uprising ("Mordnacht" (murder night) episode; story of the boy and the stove).
1380	Lucerne acquires Weggis; start of transformation into city state.
1386	Battle of Sempach.
1389	Peace with Austria.
1395	Lucerne boasts 30 gates and towers.
1410	Lucerne takes part in incursions into the valley of Domo d'Ossola / Eschental (and again in 1411, 1416 and 1425).
1415	Lucerne declared a free city by King Sigismund. Lucerne participates in the conquest of Aargau.
1418	King Sigismund confers on Lucerne the right to mint and issue coins.
1419	Lucerne takes part in the armed forays into the Ticino (also in 1422 and 1425).
1436	Old Zurich War (peace declared at Einsiedeln in 1450).
1443	Lucerne participates in the battle of St. Jakob an der Sihl.

1444 Lucerne participates in the siege of Greifensee near St. Jakob an der Birs.
1446 Lucerne participates in the battle of Ragaz.
1450 Friendship treaty between Milan, Bern, Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden.
1452 Permanent friendship and trade treaty between France, the eight states of the Old Confederacy and Solothurn.
1453 to 1616 Performance of the Passion Plays on Weinmarkt (directed by Hans Salat in 1538, Zacharias Bletz (for the first time) in 1545, Renward Cysat (for the first time) in 1583).
1458 Lucerne takes part in the Plappart War.
1460 Lucerne participates in the conquest of Thurgau.
1474 Outbreak of the Burgundian Wars.
1477 Treaty with Zurich, Bern, Fribourg and Solothurn.
1478 Battle of Giornico.
1479 Emancipation secured from the monastery in the court.
1481 Diet at Stans and Treaty of Stans.
1499 Swabian War; battle of Dornach.
1507 First printed depiction of the town in Etterlin's Chronicle.
1513 Diebold Schilling hands over his picture chronicle of Lucerne to the town council.
1515 Battle of Marignano.
1525 Lucerne acquires its first printing press through the Franciscan, Thomas Murner.
1574 The Jesuits come to Lucerne; first college in the Hause zum Schlüssel.
1583 The Capuchins arrive in Lucerne; they initially occupy the im Bruch monastery.
1584 Lucerne adopts the Gregorian calendar.
1597 Martin Martini publishes his townscape of Lucerne.
1639 The first newspaper in Lucerne is founded around this time.

1653 Peasants' War.
1656 First War of Villmergen.
1690 Ludwig Christoph Pfyffer-Wyher receives four swans from King Ludwig XIV and presents them to his home town of Lucerne.
1704 First lakeside festival, organised by Count Beretti-Landi.
1712 Second War of Villmergen.
1725 "Udligenswil Negotiation".
1737 Last witch trial in Lucerne.
1750 Lieutenant General Franz-Ludwig Pfyffer-Wyher creates his relief model of the Pilatus, and large relief of Central Switzerland about ten years later (now in the Glacier Garden).
1764 "Schumacher-Meyer Negotiation".
1798 Abdication of the patriciate; election of people's representatives; creation of municipalities; Lucerne becomes the capital of the Helvetic authorities.
1803 Act of Mediation.
1808 Lucerne becomes a directorial canton and Vinzenz Rüttimann president of Switzerland.
1810 Lucerne is home to 5239 residents.
1815 Federal Map (15th treaty); Lucerne made "town in charge" after Zurich and Bern.
1835 Founding of Lake Lucerne steamship company by Friedrich Knörr and Josef Martin Ronca.
1839 Erection of Stadttheater (city theatre).
1844 First "March of the Volunteers".
1845 Second "March of the Volunteers".
1847 Sonderbund (special union) War.
1848 Adoption of a new constitution.
1850 Founding of the cantonal savings and loans bank (now Kantonalbank or cantonal bank). Lucerne now home to 10,068

residents.
1852 Emergence of first Swiss telegraph offices: one in Lucerne.
1856 Oldest photo of town of Lucerne.
1859 Inauguration of first railway station and Emmenbrücke–Lucerne line.
1863 Thomas Cook leads his first guided tour of Switzerland with stopover in Lucerne.
1864 Inauguration of the Zug–Lucerne railway.
1870 Lucerne now home to 14,598 residents.
1872 Glacial potholes discovered near Lion Monument.
1873 Building of water supply system.
1875 Inauguration of the Bern–Lucerne railway.
1877 Telegraph inspector Michele Patocchi in Bellinzona carries out first spoken word trial on the Bellinzona–Lucerne telegraph line.
1880 Lucerne now home to 17,851 residents.
1882 Inauguration of the Gotthard railway.
1883 Inauguration of the Seetal railway.
1884 Inauguration of the Gütsch railway.
1889 Inauguration of the Brünig railway (Alpnach–Lucerne stretch).
1896 Lucerne's new railway station comes into service. Opening of the Kursaal.
1899 Inauguration of tram system, 1st international horse racing event, 1st international rowing regatta.
1900 Lucerne now home to 29,620 residents.
1902 Opening of the new cantonal hospital. Opening of the War and Peace Museum.
1904 Business section of Lucerne's address book lists phonographs and gramophone dealers for the first time.
1909 Paté appears as first cinematographer in the address book

(on Pilatusstrasse). 1st Concours Hippique.
1910 Lucerne acquires an airship station and becomes the worldwide birthplace of commercially operated powered passenger flights. Lucerne now home to 40,002 residents.
1912 Inauguration of the Dietschiberg railway.
1914 Outbreak of First World War. General mobilisation.
1928 Inauguration of transport companies' first motorised bus services: Lucerne–Horw, Lucerne–Buchrain–Perlen.
1934 Introduction of automatic telephone service.
1938 1st Internationale Musikfestwochen music festival.
1939 Outbreak of Second World War. 1st Jungbürgerfeier (annual event marking coming-of-age of citizens).
1941 First trolleybuses come into service. 1900 Lucerne now home to 56,131 residents.
1952 First traffic lights (at Kreuzstutz).
1956 Publication of first volume in the series "Luzern im Wandel der Zeiten".
1958 Opening of the Technikum technical college.
1959 Opening of the Swiss Museum of Transport.
1960 Lucerne now home to 67,433 residents.
1964 Opening of the Eichhof sheltered housing scheme by the Citizens' Commune. Inauguration of the Lucerne–Stans–Engelberg railway.
1966 Kreuzbuch and Salzfass lake water processing plants come into service. First articulated trolleybuses come into service.
1968 Completion of the Aalto high-rise apartment building.
1969 Opening of the indoor swimming pool. Opening of the planetarium in the Swiss Museum of Transport. Women obtain right to vote in church-related affairs.
1970 Lucerne now home to 69,979 residents.
1971 Closure of the cattle market on Bruchstrasse. Railway

station burns down (5 February). Women obtain right to vote in federal elections. Opening of the Ibach waste incineration plant. New municipal constitution. Two women voted into the city parliament for the first time.
1972 Founding of "Freunde der Dampfschiffahrt", a friends' group to save the five paddle steamers remaining in the Lake Lucerne fleet.
1973 City parliament votes to close the Töchtergymnasium school for girls.
1974 Lucerne connected to the Netherlands–Italy natural gas pipeline. Kasernenplatz junction added to the A2 motorway. Publication of first volume in the new journal series about the history of Lucerne "Beiträge zur Luzerner Stadtgeschichte".
1975 Founding of the Carl-Spitteler Foundation. Union rally demanding job security (Kornmarkt). Lucerne now home to 70,803 residents.
1976 Opening of the Sonnenberg Tunnel on the A2 motorway. Siegfried and Angela Rosengart donate eight works by Picasso to the city. Central Swiss Technikum technical college relocates to Horw.
1978 Lucerne celebrates its 800th anniversary. Rejection of cantonal act for a Central Swiss university. Opening of Natural History Museum on Kasernenplatz. Opening of lakeside promenade in front of the Hausermatte. Completion of the Alpenquai ("Ufschötti") lakeside park. Opening of Alpenquai marina.
1979 Swiss Museum of Transport becomes home to the Hans Erni Museum. City and canton launch their literature awards: six writers are honoured. Founding of the society for the preservation of the Bourbaki Panorama.
1980 Lucerne now home to 64,656 residents. Rejection of credit

for the construction of a multi-storey car park on Falkenplatz. Following years of renovation work, the Jesuit Church reappears in its former baroque splendour.
1981 Fundraising, an art auction and a federal grant raise some CHF 1.2 million for the preservation of the Bourbaki Panorama. Lucerne's voters approve the designs for the new railway station.
1984 Pope John Paul II visits Lucerne.
1985 The new postal service building comes into service.
1986 Opening of the History Museum.
1987 Voting age lowered to 18.
1988 "Centre of culture" concept emerges with lakeside culture and convention centre, Boa cultural centre, Schüür concert centre and Bourbaki Panorama Museum.
1990 now home to 59,087 residents.
1991 Opening of the new railway station.
1993 Chapel Bridge catches fire leaving only the bridgeheads and Water Tower (17 August).
1994 Inauguration of the new Chapel Bridge, a facsimile of the old one.
1996 Inauguration of the new Seebrücke bridge.
1997 Opening of the expanded Stadthaus (town hall).
1998 Partial opening (concert hall) of the new KKL Luzern lakeside culture and convention centre.
1999 Reopening of the lakeside lido. Lucerne goes online: <a href="http://www.stadtluzern.ch">www.stadtluzern.ch</a> .
2000 Opening of the newly renovated Bourbaki Panorama. Opening of the entire KKL Luzern. Opening of the Kunstmuseum Luzern art gallery. Merger of the old Residents' Commune and Citizens' Commune to create Lucerne municipality (1 September). Lucerne now home to 56,780 residents.

2002 Opening of the Rosengart Collection. Opening of the REZ regional ice rink (SwissLifeArena).
2003 New regulations on paintings on the Chapel Bridge come into force.
2004 In the elections, the Social Democrats take over from the Liberals as the largest block in the city parliament for the first time. Rose d'Or television festival first held in Lucerne. Fatal accident involving the Swiss Museum of Transport's "Hiflyer" captive balloon, which is subsequently taken out of service. Federal Swiss Wrestling and Alpine Games Festival held on the Allmend in August.
2005 Floods in Lucerne in August: promenades and streets near the lake and River Reuss under water. While some suffer loss and damage, others welcome the absence of traffic along the lake.
2006 Canton Lucerne's voters approve plans for a new university campus in the former postal service building behind the station. Federal Music Festival over two weekends in June: some 23,000 musicians and 250,000-plus visitors throng the bay.
2007 Littau and Lucerne voters approve the merger of the two municipalities (17 June).
2008 Federal Yodelling Festival in June draws a record 360,000 spectators. 7 November: opening of the Südpol cultural centre.
2009 Ebikon, Kriens and Emmen become part of the "Starke Stadtregion" urban project. 13 June: last game played in the old Allmend stadium. After the game, fans grab anything that is not nailed or riveted down as souvenirs.
2010 1 January: Littau and Lucerne merge.
2011 Lucerne, Ebikon, Adligenswil, Emmen and Kriens municipalities vote on merging to create a large urban district (Starke Stadtregion). Lucerne approves the project but the others

vote to maintain the status quo. Lucerne votes to quit nuclear power by 2045 and accepts the counter-proposal to the popular initiative "Lucerne without nuclear power". FC Luzern team plays its first home game in the new Swissporarena on the Allmend.
2012 Residents start moving into the two apartment blocks on the Allmend. Inauguration of the sports centre complete with swimming pool and new Allmend/Messe S-Bahn station. Lucerne votes to raise taxes by 3.08 percent. Voters accept the popular initiative "Yes to a vibrant Industriestrasse": the grounds must be leased to not-for-profit builders. Voters accept the popular initiative "For affordable housing": the council must raise the proportion of social/affordable housing from 13.5 to 16 percent within 25 years.
2013 Lucerne's voters approve (60.66 percent) the new building and zoning code. Following six years of planning and construction, completion of the new trade fair venue Messehalle 1 on the Allmend. The Messe is now fully operational.
2014 Lucerne's citizens now have access to an ombudsman service. Lucerne's voters accept the popular initiative to save the Lucerne Central and University Library (ZHB) and keep it in the Vögeligärtli quarter. The city's five residential care and nursing homes – which are operated by a department of the City of Lucerne – are handed over to Viva Luzern AG, a new not-for-profit company limited by shares, which commences operations on its own account on 1 January 2015.