

SWISS COTTAGING



ZURICH

EXPENSIVE: but worth it! German-speaking Zurich gobbles up money as quickly as it makes it. But at least you're buying quality and - on the banks of a glorious lake - this gay capital of Switzerland is no mere financial centre.

As is often the way, the gay quarter is located in the old part of town, between the grand train station and the sparkling waterfront. Graze out with the beers at **Marion Bistro** (Muhlegasse 22), sprawling out on Zähringerplatz, or prowl over to the **Predigerhof Bistro Bar** (Muhlegasse 15) for a lighter snack or drink.

Some of the most stylish bars in town are actually more mixed by day and queer by night. **Cafe Odeon** (Limmatquai 2) is a cosy 'n chic wood, steel and leather affair that attracts a young, arty crowd and **Barfüsser** (Spitalgasse 14) back in the old heart is so hip it hurts.

Just a few streets away is fruity and fresh gay cocktail palace **Cranberry** (Metzgergasse 3) where even a gentle Sea Breeze could set you back a stiff eight quid. For something more friendly and less trendy, walk north to **Tip Top Z Bar** (Sellergraben 13).

Back near the Marion, try scene stalwart **Dynasty Club** (Zähringerstr. 11), spread over two floors; if you fancy being hustled, try the **Carousel** (Zähringerstr. 33) boy bar a few doors down; or check out the unique and characterful **Pigalle** (Marktgasse 14) with its mosaic interior and traditional Swiss-German cabaret soundtracks.

Next door is the staunch **T&M Disco** (Marktgasse 14): a cross between G.A.Y. and your gay village local. An amazing interior of gargoyles, cherubs, chandeliers and church pews makes this a must for a young, fun crowd who dance to cheese or R&B below, then hike upstairs for trance and darkrooms. Those after a slightly more sophisticated weekend club head a mile out west of centre to the **Labyrinth** (Pflingstweidstrasse 70) for a tribal mix amidst pools and palms.

The best known and most central sauna in town is **Paragon** (Muhlegasse 11) which attracts the odd rent boy by day. You can sunbathe nude at the lovely Arboretum park by the lake. **Macho Cityshop** (Häringerstr. 16) sells the usual pipe of pink pap. And **Goldenes Schwert** (Marktgasse 14) is Zurich's only gay-only hotel - in the same block as Pigalle and noisy T&D, so take your ear plugs!



GENEVA

EUROPEAN HQ of the UN and home to the Red Cross, few world cities are more cosmopolitan than lush French-speaking Geneva, perched at one end of its namesake lake in the very spray of Europe's tallest water fountain that leaves all-cumers gassing.

The gay scene is mainly clustered in the multicultural, bohemian Les Paquis district on the north bank of the Rhone just west of the lake. **Dialogal** (Rue de la Navigation 11-13, www.dialogal.org) is at the heart of the queer quarter in every sense, a model of what an LGBT centre should be.

You can be sure of **La Certitude** (Rue Rossi 7) to serve up some stunning yet simple modern dishes mere streets away, but for cheaper snacks, head straight to nearby **Le Phare** (Rue Lissignol 3), an ambient and informal yet chic café-bar tucked away down an atmospheric side-street. Or meet the colourful and exuberant local gay crowd sprawled out onto the street at **L'Aiglon** (Rue Sismondri 16).

Older guys plus the odd rent hang out at traditional pub **Le Concorde** (Rue

Chocolate and cheese, mountain and lake, money and men: ADRIAN GILLAN is far from neutral about the sizzling Swiss scenes in Geneva and Zurich - yet again voted the world's best city to live in.

de Bernes 3) and an eccentric crowd of most unique individuals muster at tiny **Twins** (Rue Chaponnière 8) around the corner. Many trendier gay Genevans frequent lounge-style bar **Le Nathan** (Rue Baudit 6) tucked behind the railway station. But, come Friday or Saturday, venture over the river into the city's quaint Old Town where Geneva's only gay club - **Le Prêtexté** (Rue de Prince 9) - of necessity, pumps out music to suit all tastes.

The largest gay sauna is **Avanchets** (Avenue Baptista) out towards the airport. Also visit sex shop **Substation** (Rue de Neuchâtel 14) for slings, rings and things - buy a ticket to explore the cruising area and private video cabins up on the second floor. But you won't have to buy any tickets to "Swiss Cottage" in Geneva. Free outdoor cruising opportunities abound. Try the shamelessly crisy **Gare Routière** coach station genies by day or the **Perle du Lac** park at nights, a pleasant stroll due north along the lake.

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