

Hydrography

		1:25 000	1:50 000	1:100 000
Spring	Stream			
Waterfall				
Dry gully	Stream weirs			
River, backwater	River weirs			
Marsh	Peat cutting			
Lake, shoreline	undefined shoreline			
Port / quay	Car ferry			
Landing pier	Lake level			
Dam	Spot height at lake bottom max. flood level			
Lake with varying water level				
Single pressure pipeline	multiple pipeline			
Underground pipeline				
Pond	Fountain			
Well, uncovered	covered			
Water treatment plant	Public swimming pool			
Reservoir	Water tower			
Power plant with switching station	High tension transmission line with pylon			

The Swiss National Maps

are the official topographic maps of Switzerland published at the scales 1:25 000, 1:50 000, 1:100 000, 1:200 000, 1:500 000 and 1:1 million. Each of the different map scales covers the entire area of Switzerland.

There are composite sheets available at the scales 1:25 000, 1:50 000 and 1:100 000 of regions that are of particular interest to tourism or that form a geographic entity.

All maps can be obtained folded or unfolded.

Conventional signs

The symbols of the topographic maps at the scales 1:25 000, 1:50 000 and 1:100 000 are explained in this brochure. The symbols appearing on maps at other scales are explained on those maps.

Other symbols may appear on older maps, however, these discrepancies will be eliminated in the course of the regular revision and update cycle.

For maps at the scale 1:25 000 bordering with France and Germany, the symbols and conventional signs are those used by the respective countries.

Map lettering

The type style depends on the represented feature. Names of municipalities are set upright, names of suburbs or hamlets in italics. Names of valleys and mountains are set in medium, regional names in

light weight type. The importance of an object is indicated by the size and type of lettering. For towns and cities, the size depends on the number of inhabitants.

Settlement	Population	1:25 000	1:50 000	1:100 000
Town	over 50 000	BERN	GENÈVE	ZÜRICH
Town	10 000 – 50 000	LUGANO	CHUR	SION
Municipality	2000 – 10 000	Sunvitg	Biasca	Buochs
Municipality	less than 2000	Cressier (NE)	Sağoğn	Corippo
Suburb	over 2000	<i>Cassarate</i>	<i>Bruggen</i>	<i>Le Sentier</i>
Suburb	100 – 2000	<i>Champfer</i>	<i>Carasso</i>	<i>Mürren</i>
Hamlet, group of houses	50 – 100	<i>Le Plan</i>	<i>Clavanio</i>	<i>Nante</i>
Single house, hut		<i>Trifhütte SAC</i>	<i>La Râpette</i>	<i>A. Naucoula</i>

Examples of other topographic names

Regions, Forests	<i>Clos du Doubs</i>	<i>G i b e l e g g w a l d</i>	
Valleys	<i>Surselva</i>	<i>Val Malvaglia</i>	<i>Chummertälli</i>
Mountains	<i>Jungfrau</i>	<i>Rosablanche</i>	<i>Poncione di Braga</i>
Passes	<i>Passo del San Gottardo</i>	<i>Col de la Croix</i>	<i>Fuorcla Surlej</i>
Rivers	<i>LE RHÔNE</i>	<i>Limmat</i>	<i>Verzasca</i> <i>Ova Chamuera</i>
Lakes	<i>LAGO MAGGIORE</i>	<i>Lac de Morat</i>	<i>Lej da Segl</i>
Glaciers	<i>Aletschgletscher</i>	<i>Vadret Pers</i>	<i>Gh. dei Cavagnoli</i> <i>Gl. de Darbonneire</i>

Abbreviations

<i>A.</i>	Alp	<i>F.</i>	Fuorcla, Furcla	<i>OE.</i>	Ouvra electrica	<i>Sar.</i>	Sarinera
<i>BL.err.</i>	Bloc erratic	<i>Fda.</i>	Fermeda, Fermada	<i>Osp.</i>	Ospidel, Ospedel	<i>Ser.</i>	Serenera
<i>CAS</i>	Club Alpin Svizzer	<i>Funt.</i>	Funtauna	<i>P.</i>	Piz, Pez	<i>Str.</i>	Staziun
<i>Cna</i>	Camona	<i>Lav.</i>	Lavinar, Laviner	<i>Rna</i>	Ruina	<i>Vad.</i>	Vadret
<i>Cum.</i>	Cumün, Cumeğn	<i>Mgna</i>	Muntogna, Muntagna	<i>S.</i>	San, Son, Sogn, Sontg	<i>Vscha</i>	Vischnanca, Vschinaunca

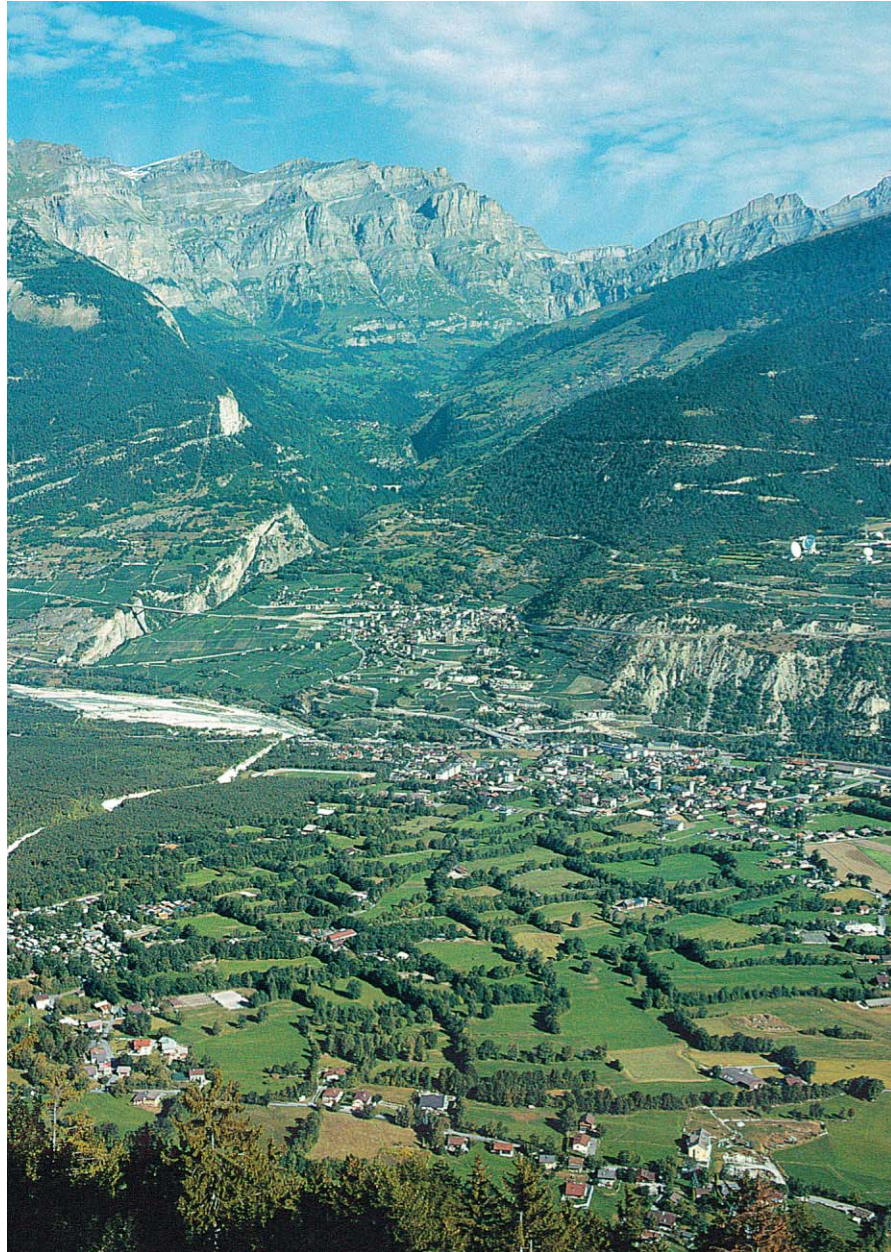
Abbreviations

The individual symbols are designed to indicate the represented feature clearly.

In addition, some important features are labelled, often with an abbreviation due to lack of space.

deutsch		français		italiano	
<i>A.</i>	Alp	<i>A.</i>	Alpe	<i>A.</i>	Alpe
<i>ARA</i>	Abwasserreinigungsanlage	<i>Aig.</i>	Aiguille, -s	<i>Bio.</i>	Bivacco
<i>Äuss.</i>	Äussere, -er	<i>Anc.</i>	Ancien, -ne	<i>BL.err.</i>	Blocco erratico
<i>B.</i>	Bach	<i>B.</i>	Bois	<i>Btta</i>	Bocchetta
<i>Bhf.</i>	Bahnhof	<i>BL.err.</i>	Bloc erratique	<i>Cap.</i>	Capanna
<i>Br.</i>	Brücke	<i>C.</i>	Col	<i>CAS</i>	Club Alpino Svizzero
<i>Err. Bl.</i>	Erratischer Block	<i>Cab.</i>	Cabane	<i>Cast.</i>	Castello
<i>EW</i>	Elektrizitätswerk	<i>CAS</i>	Club Alpin Suisse	<i>Cna</i>	Cascina, Cassina
<i>F.</i>	Firn	<i>Ch.</i>	Chemin	<i>Cne</i>	Comune
<i>Gde.</i>	Gemeinde	<i>Chap.</i>	Chapelle	<i>Dog.</i>	Dogana
<i>GL.</i>	Gletscher	<i>Chât.</i>	Château	<i>F.</i>	Fiume
<i>Gr.</i>	Graben	<i>Cit.</i>	Citerne	<i>Forc.</i>	Forcola, Forcella, Forcellina, Forchetta
<i>Gr.</i>	Gross, -e, -er	<i>Clin.</i>	Clinique	<i>Fta</i>	Fermata
<i>H.</i>	Hütte	<i>Cne</i>	Commune	<i>Gh.</i>	Ghiacciaio
<i>Hint.</i>	Hinter, -e, -er	<i>Cont.</i>	Contour	<i>IDA</i>	Impianto di depurazione delle acque luride
<i>Hst.</i>	Haltestelle	<i>Et.</i>	Etang	<i>Imp.</i>	Impianto
<i>Inn.</i>	Inner, -e, -er	<i>F.</i>	Forêt	<i>Inf.</i>	Inferiore
<i>J.</i>	Joch	<i>Font.</i>	Fontaine	<i>Lto</i>	Laghetto
<i>K.</i>	Kopf	<i>Gd, Gde</i>	Grand, -e	<i>M.</i>	Monte, Monti
<i>Kap.</i>	Kapelle	<i>GL.</i>	Glacier	<i>Mgna</i>	Montagna
<i>Kl.</i>	Klein, -e, -er	<i>H.</i>	Halte	<i>Mno</i>	Molino
<i>Klr.</i>	Kloster	<i>Höp.</i>	Hôpital	<i>OE</i>	Officina elettrica
<i>L.</i>	Lücke	<i>M.</i>	Mont	<i>Osp.</i>	Ospedale
<i>Mittl.</i>	Mittler, -e, er	<i>Mét.</i>	Métairie	<i>Oss.</i>	Osservatorio
<i>Ob.</i>	Ober, -e, -er	<i>Mgne</i>	Montagne	<i>P.</i>	Pizzo
<i>P.</i>	Pass	<i>Mlin</i>	Moulin	<i>Pne</i>	Poncione
<i>Präh.</i>	Prähistorisch, -e, -er	<i>Pass.</i>	Passerelle	<i>Pso</i>	Passo
<i>Rne.</i>	Ruine	<i>Pt, Pte</i>	Petit, -e	<i>R.</i>	Ri, Riale, Rio
<i>Röm.</i>	Römisch, -e, -er	<i>Pte de...</i>	Pointe de...	<i>Rif.</i>	Rifugio
<i>S.</i>	See	<i>R.</i>	Ruisseau	<i>SAT</i>	Società Alpinistica Ticinese
<i>SAC</i>	Schweizer Alpen-Club	<i>Ref.</i>	Refuge	<i>Sta</i>	Santa
<i>Schl.</i>	Schloss	<i>Rne</i>	Ruine	<i>Stne</i>	Stazione
<i>Sp.</i>	Spitz, -e	<i>See</i>	Source	<i>T.</i>	Torrente
<i>St.</i>	Sankt	<i>St-</i>	Saint-	<i>UTOE</i>	Unione Ticinese Operai Escursionisti
<i>St.</i>	Stock	<i>Ste-</i>	Sainte-	<i>V.</i>	Val, Valle
<i>Stn.</i>	Station	<i>Str.</i>	Station	<i>Ved.</i>	Vedretta
<i>Unt.</i>	Unter, -e, -er	<i>STEP</i>	Station d'épuration des eaux usées	<i>Vne</i>	Vallone
<i>Üss.</i>	Usser, -e, -i	<i>T.</i>	Torrent		
<i>Vord.</i>	Vorder, -e, -er	<i>UE</i>	Usine électrique		
<i>W.</i>	Wald				

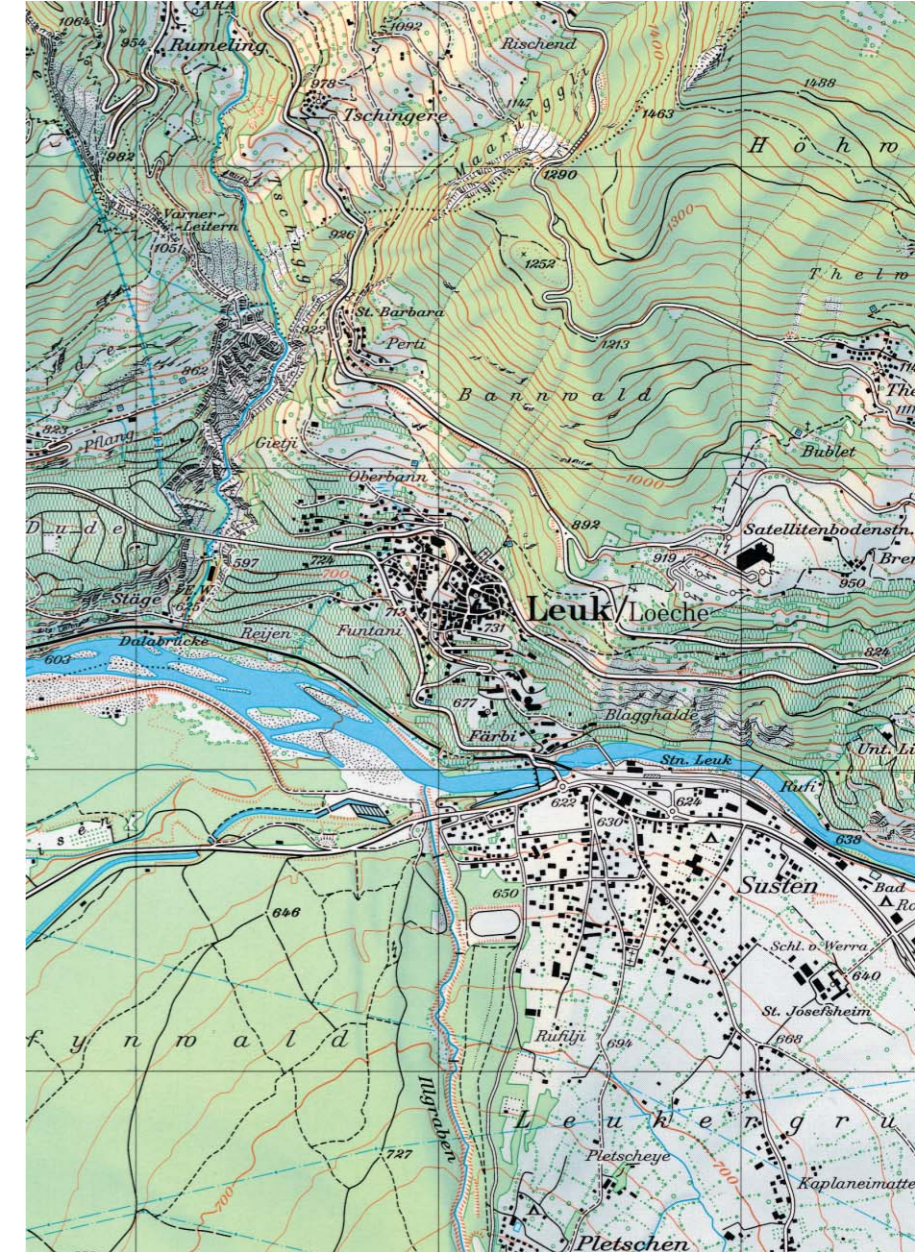
Terrestrial photograph



Digital orthophoto «SWISSIMAGE»



National map 1:25 000



National map 1:50 000



Map revision

In a very meticulous and time-consuming process the Swiss National Maps are revised and updated in a 6-year cycle. The date appearing on the title of the map indicates the year of publication, whereas the status of the map content is shown on the inside of the map.

Since the landscape is constantly subject to transformations and modifications, there may be differences between the map and reality.

We are happy to accept any reports of errors or ambiguous information.

Generalization

The natural and man-made features of the earth's surface are represented at a very small scale on maps. The smaller the scale, the less room there is to represent reality. It is therefore necessary to revise and generalize the map content by emphasizing important features, simplifying complicated situations, and omitting less important ones.

National map 1:100 000



Scale

The map scale indicates the linear reduction ratio of the map content.

1:25 000	4 cm on the map represent 1 km on the earth's surface
1:50 000	2 cm on the map represent 1 km on the earth's surface
1:100 000	1 cm on the map represents 1 km on the earth's surface

A graphic scale is shown in the bottom margin of the map.

National coordinates

A Cartesian kilometric grid is printed on the topographic maps 1:25 000 and 1:50 000, and a 10 km grid is on the map 1:100 000.

The fundamental point of the projection has the values $y = 600$ km (east) and $x = 200$ km (north) assigned to it. Any point in Switzerland can therefore be defined with meter-accuracy by two six-digit numbers, whereby the larger value is named first.

Example: Lion Monument in Lucerne:
666 270 / 212 290

The coordinates can be easily read from the map with a special coordinate ruler (for ex. «rapex»[®]) or with a normal mm ruler. Estimations to the nearest 100 m are often sufficient for ordinary map use.

Geodetic datum

The reference system for surveying and cartography in Switzerland is defined by the geodetic datum «CH1903» based on Bessel's ellipsoid from 1841 at the fundamental point in Bern (old observatory). The Swiss map projection is a conformal, oblique cylinder projection with its point of origin ($y = 600$ km / $x = 200$ km) at the fundamental point in Bern. The point of origin for height measurements is the «Repère Pierre du Niton» with a height of 373.600 m above the mean sea level in Marseilles.

For navigation (GPS) applications, the global geodetic datum «WGS84» is used. It differs from «CH1903» in the y-axis by -50 to -110 m, in the x-axis by -130 to -160 m and in height by 45 to 53 m, depending on the location in Switzerland. The transformation programs for coordinates («CH1903» / «WGS84») are available at swisstopo.

Convergence of meridians and declination

The variable value of the angle of westerly or easterly deviation of the magnetic needle (convergence of meridians plus magnetic declination) corresponds to the south-north line (grid north) of the coordinate grid. The value refers to the center of the map sheet and for the given year, decreasing annually by a $-$ specific value.

The locally variable value of the angle between the geographic and the grid north (convergence of meridians) can reach up to 2° in Switzerland. In most cases the declination is currently negligible when using a compass. In zones of interference, however, larger deviations may occur. The relative information can be found in the bottom right-hand margin.

Thematic maps

In cooperation with other organizations, the Federal Office of Topography publishes various thematic maps based on the official topographic maps. Examples: Road Map, Hiking Maps, Ski Tour Maps, Municipality Map, Map of Castles, Map of Museums, Map of Protected Cultural Assets, Aeronautical Chart ICAO, Glider Chart, Chart of Air Navigation Obstacles, Atlas of Switzerland etc.

Aerial photographs

Each year aerial photographs are taken of one sixth of Switzerland. These black-and-white photos as well as the «SWISSIMAGE» color photos (since 1998) are also available to the public. There are about 350,000 aerial photographs (dating back to the 1920s) and satellite images catalogued in our archives. Detailed information is available at the photo library of swisstopo.

Map-reading aids

Note: the following three articles are available only in German and French.

A didactical media package "Vom Umgang mit Karten und Geodaten - Laure und Tom auf den Spuren des Röstigrabens" (swisstopo, 2002). Student notebooks with exercises (and teachers' notebooks with solutions), media kit (free if rented), special website www.laureundtom.ch with additional information and work sheets.

CD-ROM *Swiss Map Trophy* is a game as well as an interactive program for learning how to read maps, based on the Swiss National Map 1:25 000 and 1:200 000 (joint edition by swisstopo and the Swiss Army, 2nd edition 2001, ISBN 302-060909-4).

The textbook "Karten lesen - Handbuch zu den Landeskarten" by Martin Gurtner (joint edition by swisstopo and the Swiss Alpine Club, 2nd edition 1998, ISBN 3-85902-137-0). The complete guide to the National Maps with tips for self-study and for teachers and instructors.

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Map sales

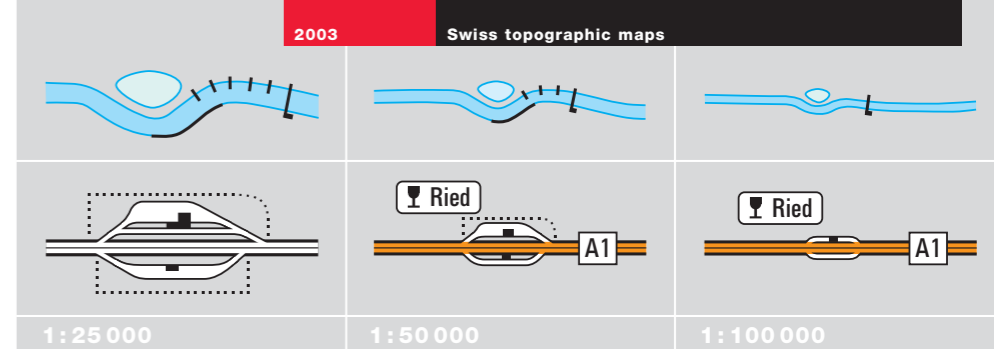
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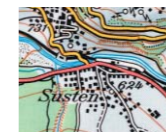
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Conventional signs

and further information
to the topographic maps



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