



Franciscan Church



Franciscan Church - © Luzern Tourismus, Laila Bosco



The building's medieval architecture is typical of that favoured by this mendicant order of monks.

The Church of St. Mary in the heart of the Franciscan Monastery was erected between 1270 and 1280 by Franciscan monks, who occupied the site in Lucerne until 1838.

The Gothic interior features the most elaborately ornamented pulpit in Switzerland, dating from between the Renaissance and baroque periods. Frescoed flags depict plunder from Lucerne's military campaigns. Later alterations and extensions introduced new stylistic elements from the baroque and rococo periods.

The townscape of Lucerne created by the Grisons engraver Martin Martini in 1597 includes the Franciscan Church, as well as the Hospital Church (Spitalkirche) and Hospital of the Holy Spirit (Heiliggeist-Spital). The latter was founded in the 13th century as one of the first institutions of the nascent town to care for the needy, the sick and pilgrims. The hospital building was pulled down in 1656 when the institution moved to a location outside the town walls, its church suffering the same fate in 1788. The church's grounds were next to the Franciscan Monastery Gardens. Due to overcrowding of the town's graveyards, the gardens were converted into a cemetery in 1600 and remained in use until 1798. Burials regularly exposed human bones.

High value placed on church music

Worship services feature works ranging from Gregorian chant to Palestrina, Schütz, Bach, Handel and Mozart to contemporary organ improvisations.

Features:

Accessibility / Location

Accessible by public transport, Central location, In the old town

Contact Person:

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Target group

Individual guests, Adults, Seniors

Equipment / Furnishings

Wheelchair accessible

Openinghours

Weekday	Time
Monday until Tuesday Thursday until Friday	08:30 - 11:30 14:00 - 16:30
Wednesday	08:30 - 11:30

MO, DI, DO, FR 8.30 -11.30 / 14.00 - 16.30 MI 8.30 - 11.30; afternoon closed