

# On-board magazine

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2024/2025

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A paradise for  
fauna, flora –  
and lapwings**

# CAVE DE LA CRAUSAZ

## Féchy

Wir freuen uns auf Ihren Besuch in Féchy, in unserem Weinkeller, für eine Degustation unserer Weine.

### ÖFFNUNGSZEITEN

Montag bis Freitag: 7 bis 12 Uhr - 13 bis 18 Uhr

Samstag: 8 bis 12 Uhr - 14 bis 17 Uhr



Probieren Sie unseren Féchy doch gleich hier an Bord und machen Sie Ihren Ausflug zu einem noch grösseren Erlebnis.

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**GUIDED TOUR**

**UNDERGROUND LIMMAT BOAT TOUR** WED, 17/04, 15/05, 12/06, 17/07, 14/08, 18/09 AND 09/10 | [18:00 H](#)

**FESTIVE**

**MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH BOAT** SUN, 12/05 | [11:30 H](#)  
**1 AUGUST BOATS** THU, 01/08 | [VARIOUS DEPARTURES](#)  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE BOATS** TUE, 31/12 | [VARIOUS DEPARTURES](#)

**FOOD & DRINK**

**BRUNCH BOAT** EVERY SUN, 07/01 TO 29/12 | [10:05 H](#)  
**BBQ BOAT** EVERY THU, 04/07 TO 29/08 | [19:30 H](#)  
**BEER & DINNER BOAT** SAT, 30/11 | [20:00 H](#)  
**BUILD YOUR BURGER BOAT** THU, 02/05, 16/05 TO 30/05 | [19:30 H](#)  
**CHEESE FONDUE BOAT** EVERY MON, 18/11 TO 16/12, EVERY TUE, 01/10 TO 17/12, EVERY FRI, 22/11 TO 20/12 | [19:30 H](#)  
**FONDUE CHINOISE BOAT** THU, 03/10 TO 19/12, WED, 11/12 | [19:00 H](#)  
**HOT STONE BOAT** EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> WED 17/01 TO 15/05 AND EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> WED 05/06 TO 18/12 | [19:30 H](#)  
**MEAT SELECTION BOAT** FRI, 25/10 | [19:30 H](#)  
**MEZZE BOAT** EVERY THU, 18/04, 25/04, 06/06 TO 27/06 | [19:30 H](#)  
**VEGI INDIA BOAT** FRI, 26/04, 24/05, 31/05, 28/06 | [19:30 H](#)  
**TACOS BOAT** EVERY THU, 05/09 TO 26/09 | [19:30 H](#)  
**VENISON BOAT** FRI, 27/09 | [19:30 H](#)



Further information on our services can be found at [zsg.ch/erlebnisschiffe](https://zsg.ch/erlebnisschiffe)



**PARTY & ENTERTAINMENT**

**COUNTRY BOAT** FRI, 20/09 | [20:00 H](#)  
**RAINBOW PARTY BOAT** FRI, 07/06, 20/07, 21/12 | [20:00 H](#)  
**ROMPE BOAT** SAT, 15/06, 27/07, 31/08 | [20:00 H](#)  
**SCHLAGER PARTY BOAT** FRI, 03/05, 30/08, SAT, 25/05, 29/06, 13/07, SAT, 21/09 | [20:00 H](#)  
**SALSA BOAT** SAT, 01/06, 06/07, 03/08, 07/09 | [20:00 H](#)  
**SILENT PARTY BOAT** FRI, 19/04, 10/05, 21/06, 19/07, 16/08, 13/09 | [20:00 H](#)  
**WINE COMEDY BOAT** SAT, 26/10, 07/12 | [19:30 H](#)  
**80<sup>S</sup> PARTY BOAT** FRI 05/07, 26/07, 06/09 , 04/10 SAT, 27/04, 11/05, 22/06, 24/08 | [20:00 H](#)

# Calling all kids, this way for fun!



***If you're out and about with kids, there's no chance of getting bored. A trip (1) across Lake Zurich on a steamboat turns into an adventurous pirate expedition...***

The range of recreational activities available in our region is almost as limitless as your child's imagination. To help you decide, the adventure platform [kinderregion.ch](http://kinderregion.ch) provides an extensive overview and lots of inspiration, including insider tips, blogposts and useful information.

***Treats and adventures*** If you have a sweet tooth, you'll be pleased to hear that white, milk and plain chocolates are all available to sample during the tasting sessions at [Lindt Home of Chocolate](#) (2). The treats come with a serving of knowledge too – find out where cocoa beans come from, how the chocolate is made and why Switzerland is a “land of chocolate”. Food and fun are also on offer on the [Rapperswil-Jona Food Trail](#) (3): Go on a culinary treasure hunt through this charming town, where you'll solve tricky riddles, sample regional delicacies and discover spectacular viewpoints. Inquisitive young minds will enjoy Rapperswil's town tour for kids. Learn why [fallow deer](#) (4) graze the Lindenhügel, where the picture of Countess Mechthild is hidden and what games children used to play in medieval times. Anyone not scared of the dark might prefer a trip underground at the former mine of Bergwerk Käpfnach. The 1.4-kilometre journey on the [pit railway](#) (5) is an unforgettable experience for all the family.

***Water fun and nature discovery*** If you're after a healthy portion of holiday feeling, [Fischer's Fritz](#) (6) is just the thing. The camp site is situated directly on the lakeshore and just a stone's throw from the city centre. With a bar, wakeboarding academy, SUP hire and [beach volleyball field](#) (7), there's little chance of getting bored. Those who prefer a little more peace and quiet should head to the [island of Lützelau](#) (8). Picturesquely located in the middle of Lake Zurich, the island is the perfect destination for a day trip or for camping. For treasure seekers, the [explorer trail](#) (9) around the idyllic upper part of Lake Zurich has a challenge in store. Equipped with a treasure map and explorer backpack, your mission is to save the treasure from sinking below the waves. Explore our family-friendly region – with such a vast choice of destinations there's plenty to keep young and old entertained. Let the adventure begin!

## GREAT IDEAS FOR FUN DAYS OUT

Want to discover chocolate paradise in Kilchberg? Experience a treasure hunt by bike? Or how about an adventurous ride on a pit railway through the old mines at Käpfnach?

Zurich, Rapperswil, Winterthur, Schwyz, Glarus, Baden and Zug offer countless opportunities for fun and recreation. For further information on popular day-trip destinations and insider tips for little explorers, inquisitive youngsters and all adventurers, see:

[kinderregion.ch](http://kinderregion.ch)



The lapwing has a bird's eye view of Lake Zurich. An insight on page 18.

# Cast off the lines!

Dear readers, welcome aboard!

Cast off the lines – the new edition of the on-board magazine is here. Once again, we've put together a sparkly cocktail of fascinating in-depth stories relating to our boats, the lake and Zurich.

The Lake Zurich Navigation Company (ZSG) connects people, communities and businesses. Meet a seasoned participant in the famous annual lake crossing and find out what the locals love about this traditional event which has taken place for almost 40 years. Meanwhile our deck officer Christian Bösch, who also happens to be a kite surfing pro, has a similarly impressive history to look back on. For more than two decades, he has vowed spectators on beaches across the globe with his spectacular jumps. More sedate goings-on take place in the Frauenwinkel moorland. The nature reserve on Lake Zurich is one of Switzerland's most valuable lake shore habitats and is home to the endangered lapwing. Bird lovers can explore the area along the pilgrims' path from Pfäffikon to Rapperswil on foot.

We also offer a glimpse into the world of entertainer Alcomedian, aka Lukas Fehr. In his trademark witty style, the trained sommelier provides a fresh take on time-honoured habits and curious prejudices concerning wine. And lastly, we take you on a diving expedition to the bottom of Lake Zurich with Adelrich Uhr. A passionate hobby diver, he has uncovered the story surrounding a recently located shipwreck which has lain on the lake bed for more than a century.

Join us on board one of our boats and savour the beauty of Lake Zurich. We look forward to welcoming you!

With nautical greetings  
Roman Knecht, Director

PS. What is your favourite ship to travel on? And where to?  
Share your photos with us: **#mehrsee** oder **@zuerichseeschiffahrt**



# The Kite Master

*It was more than two decades ago when sailor Christian Bösch decided to make kite surfing his profession. Over the years, he achieved everything he could have dreamt of. Now he's back and navigating his way across Lake Zurich as deck officer.*





They're all crazy...! If you search Facebook or Instagram for Christian Bösch and kite surfing, that's most likely the conclusion you'll arrive at. The footage shows Bösch and his fellow kite surfers using large sails – the so-called power kites – to lift them high into the air. But that's not all. They also perform the most incredible artistic jumps, apparently weightless, and perform risky landings on high waves – or hit the water so hard after a failed jump that it hurts just to watch.

And now this crazy guy is standing on the deck of MS Albis, watching the clouds chase across the blue November sky. "Around this time of year, I used to fly off to somewhere warm for a couple of months." Somewhere warm, by the sea. Bösch, now 44 and originally a trained carpenter, is a kite surfing pioneer who was born in the wrong place – in Rickenbach, Canton Zurich, far away from the sea and tropical temperatures.

**When his main sponsor hired a helicopter for 1000 dollars per hour to film Bösch and his team colleagues, he knew: "I've made it"**

He can still remember how it all started: "It was 24 years ago, I had just started working for the Lake Zurich Navigation Company (ZSG) as a sailor. I read an article about kite surfing and I just knew straight away, that's my thing."

Thus followed two decades "on the road", to pursue a sport which at that time barely anyone in Switzerland had heard of. "There was no one who could teach me, and even the equipment was hard to get hold of in Switzerland." So he pretty much taught himself. "I've always had a lot of tenacity and drive. Two years later I was a kite surfing instructor on Lake Silvaplana in Engadine. We started surfing as soon as the ice melted and carried on until the first snow fell in October." Together with a friend from Engadine he also travelled to the beaches of Australia and New Zealand. "We lived in a bus and led a very simple life. The little money we needed we earned as kitchen porters or pickers on an apple farm." Why was it exactly this sport that grabbed him? He mentions factors such as adrenalin, the coming together of different sporting disciplines, freedom, love of nature, friendships, distant lands and other cultures.

But because life couldn't be all apple picking, plate washing and kite surfing, Bösch came back home to Switzerland every summer. He carried on working as a ZSG sailor on Lake Zurich and – like the migratory birds – headed south every winter. He has visited the most beautiful beaches of Venezuela, Hawaii, Brazil and



As confident in the air as he is in the water – Bösch is one of the most successful Swiss kite surfers.





Christian Bösch on board (MS) Albis – as deck officer he ensures his guests enjoy a safe crossing.

other destinations which most can only dream of. Over the years, he became a kite surfing pro. When his main sponsor hired a helicopter for 1000 dollars per hour to film Bösch and his team colleagues, he knew: “I’ve made it.”

Bösch is one of the most successful Swiss kite surfers and has taken part in many competitions and countless photo shoots. He often documents his trips for magazines and still enjoys a bit of the surfer lifestyle. His travels around the world could have continued for some time, but he decided to steer his kite back home to Lake Zurich and to ZSG. He married Robervania, whom he had met during his first trip to Brazil, and is the happy father of twelve-year-old daughter Luna. He still regularly works on board one of the ZSG boats as deck officer, but because he’s just as full of tenacity and drive as he always was, he has also joined the ZSG management and is entrusted with various planning tasks.

Just like Bösch, the sport of kite surfing has also moved on. A multitude of different boards, sails and disciplines now exist. “These days, I mainly use a foilboard on Swiss lakes,” he tells us. Foilboards work on a similar design principle as aeroplanes, except that they glide through water rather than air. Seen from a distance, it looks as if the surfer is hovering above the water.

The weather has turned and the lake has become choppy, it almost looks as though the clouds are merging with the water. A few late migratory birds are heading south. Bösch watches them. “My family and I feel really settled here in Switzerland,” he says. “But the winters are too long. So I usually spend a couple of weeks by the sea and pursue my kite surfing passion.” *fb*

# ROOFTOP EVENTLOCATION

Leinen los für Ihren Event! Mit traumhafter Aussicht auf den Zürichsee nehmen wir Sie mit zu neuen Ufern für Ihr Familienfest, Ihren runden Geburtstag, Ihre Hochzeit, Ihr Seminar oder Ihre Mitarbeiterfeier.



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## Hoch über Zürich entspannen



Auf dem Panoramaweg  
durchs Albisgebiet:  
[www.szu.ch/panoramaweg](http://www.szu.ch/panoramaweg)

 **SZU**



Egal ob Sommer oder Winter — Deckenventilatoren sind nicht nur ein dekorativer Blickfang, sondern auch Heizkosten werden gespart. Dass Deckenfächer das ganze Jahr über Energie sparen, ist den wenigsten bewusst. Ob auf dem Schiff, im Büro oder im Schlafzimmer, unsere Ventilatoren werden stets weiterentwickelt und sorgen für eine gleichmässige Abkühlung — oder eben im Winter für eine angenehmere Raumtemperatur.

Es gibt die verschiedensten Modelle, die komplett nach Ihren Wünschen ausgestaltet werden können — aus Holz oder Metall, mit zwei oder fünf Flügeln. Entdecken Sie zudem unsere neuen Deckenventilatoren mit WiFi, die mittels einer App via Smartphones oder Tablets gesteuert werden.

Spüren Sie den Fahrtwind nicht nur auf dem Schiff, sondern auch zu Hause! Besuchen Sie uns an der Steinhaldenstrasse 3 in Geroldswil oder online unter [www.risch-luft.ch](http://www.risch-luft.ch)



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# Enjoy a chuckle with your tippie

*In vino veritas – but plenty of skulduggery goes on around it, says Lukas Fehr with a wink. As “Alcomedian”, the professional wine consultant turned comedian puts self-professed wine experts in their place and delivers sound advice on the all-important question of what makes a good wine. This autumn, you can catch him again on the wine & comedy cruise.*

Alcomedian – the name says it all. Lukas Fehr’s on-stage persona combines the two things he knows and loves best, alcohol and comedy. In his characteristically witty manner, the trained sommelier chats about wine and spirits. Along the way, he finds time to make fun of self-proclaimed experts, time-honoured habits and curious prejudices. This always earns him plenty of laughs – the combination of comedy and competence, spiced up with a healthy dose of self-irony, is a real winner.

Fehr, who is 40 and a professional wine consultant, spends weekdays passing on his considerable knowledge in the Globus department store on Zurich’s prestigious Bahnhofstrasse. “There are plenty of people who enjoy good wine. But only few have a proper understanding of it,” he says with a smile, before immediately adding: “And thank goodness that’s the case, otherwise I’d be out of a job.” Fortunately there’s no question of that – on the contrary. In addition to wine, Lukas Fehr also has a passion for acting. Even as a youngster he regularly trod the boards and attended courses at Zurich’s drama school. Being of a cheery disposition, his interests leaned more towards comedy and vernacular theatre. In fact, he used to share the stage with another reliable source of high spirits and easy-going humour – the late Jörg Schneider, who hired him for his Swiss dialect performance “Dure bi Rot”.

The idea to combine his two interests first came to Lukas Fehr during the pandemic when he was forced to sit around at home for a while. As he’s an occasional playwright and also experiences “many amusing moments” at work, he decided to put together a stage routine. He performs his routine all across Switzerland, in restaurants, at wine tasting events and private functions. The fact that he also provides his audience with useful tips to take home certainly adds to the attraction. Take for instance the question whether a wine is corked or not – it’s not always that easy to tell. If you’re unsure, Fehr recommends putting a few drops of wine in a water glass. If the cork taste is still present then this is a sure sign that there’s a problem with the wine.

His combination of alcohol and humour has proved a recipe for success. It’s no wonder then that the lively wine consultant has decided to branch out into the subjects of gin and beer, and offers relevant programmes for each. “After all, the best part of a wine tasting is the beer after,” he laughs. Well in that case, cheers! *rea*



## ALCOMEDIAN

“I address the key questions that people have concerning wine. And my answers are of course truthful and fact-based. But I like to make it entertaining, enliven it with tips and a good dose of humour.”

Let the Alcomedian take you on a journey through the world of wine, from “A” for acidity to “Z” for Zinfandel. The wine comedy boat will sail on 26 October and 7 December 2024.

[zsg.ch](http://zsg.ch)

# Experiencing the city from a different perspective



***Like brightly coloured balls, the bathing caps of the swimmers bounce across the water in their thousands. It's the annual City of Zurich lake crossing and one of these caps – a purple one with the start number C-2325 – belongs to Lovisa Langenstam. This is the fifth time that Lovisa, originally from Sweden, is taking part in the large-scale sports event.***

Now already in its 33rd year, the 2023 City of Zurich lake crossing has brought together 8224 enthusiastic swimmers on this hot August day. That's quite an impressive number for the traditional Zurich mass sports event. The distance from Strandbad Mythenquai to the finish at Strandbad Tiefenbrunnen on the opposite lake shore is 1500 metres.

For me, what makes the lake crossing so special is that I can swim in the middle of the lake without putting myself in danger. This allows me to experience the city from an entirely different and unusual perspective.”  
**Lovisa Langenstam**



Lovisa Langenstam is in starting group C. But before she can jump into the refreshing water she needs to check in. This is where all participants receive their bathing cap and start number. Then it's time for a group warm-up on the lido's large lawn. "What I love about this event is that you feel part of a community," says Lovisa. A practising dentist, she moved from Sweden to Zurich around seven years ago. She first took part in the event in 2017. "There's a great atmosphere. Young and old – everyone is welcome," she tells us while alternately raising her arms and legs. The moment for her group to enter the water draws near and Lovisa heads over to the starting area. There's a blast from a hooter and nearly 700 swimmers, including Lovisa, dive into Lake Zurich. They all strike out towards the opposite shore – each at their individual pace. The participants aren't timed, the lake crossing isn't a competition. A few minutes later, all that can be seen from the shore are countless colourful bathing caps that appear to be dancing across the water.

# Zürcher Wein-Ausstellung

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Lovisa is keen on sports and swims regularly once a week – during summer she likes to have an early morning dip at the Frauenbadi women’s lido, in winter she goes to the City indoor pool. She also enjoys weight training and goes jogging or joins friends on a Vitaparcours fitness trail in the woods. On this August afternoon, Lovisa has been in the water for around 40 minutes when she comes ashore at Strandbad Tiefenbrunnen – where she gratefully takes the cup of hot bouillon she is handed. “Despite the warm weather, I was really looking forward to this,” she says, puffing. Even with the air temperature at 33.5°C and the water a pleasant 27°C, and despite the continuous movement, the body cools down quickly in the water – 25 to 30 times faster than when surrounded by air. “But my head got really hot,” Lovisa laughs.

The popular Lake Zurich mass swim is organised by a dedicated association in collaboration with the water police and first took place in 1985. The inaugural event was aimed purely at young people and only 250 participants joined up to swim the one-and-a-half kilometres. The following year the lake crossing was open to adults too. With each passing year the event became more popular – until 2017, when it was held for the 29th time and a record 10,705 swimmers took part. That, however, was too much of a good thing. For the 30<sup>th</sup> and all subsequent lake crossings, the maximum number of participants was restricted to 9000 swimmers, divided into 12 groups with staggered start times. This, ideally, prevents waiting times at the shipping intersection point, so swimmers don’t have to pause their progress mid-way. Around a hundred life guards and the water police monitor the stretch of water, enabling participants to safely traverse the lake.

“For me, what makes the lake crossing so special is that I can swim in the middle of the lake without putting myself in danger. This allows me to experience the city from an entirely different and unusual perspective,” Lovisa enthuses. She firmly intends to return for the 34th Zurich lake crossing: “I’m definitely going to take part again!” *sue*

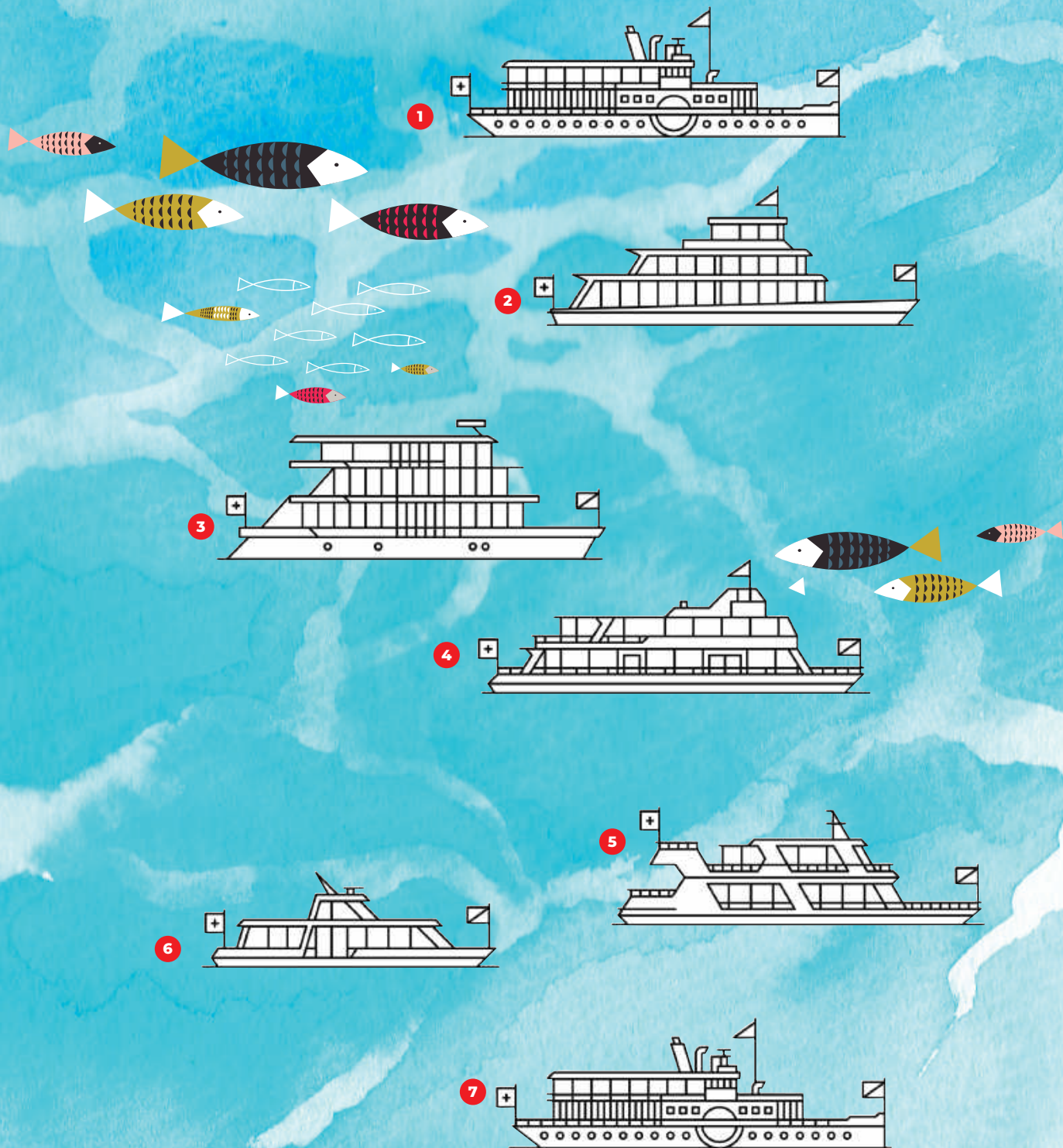


## WANT TO JOIN IN?

The next lake crossing will take place on 3 July 2024.

Tickets go on sale on 1 July. All participants are given a check-in time with their ticket. The entry fee of 25 francs (from age 16) includes a swimming cap, luggage transport, food (vegetarian risotto) and a drink at the finish, plus a commemorative present. Adolescents aged 12 to 15 can join the swim for free.

[seeueberquerung.ch](http://seeueberquerung.ch)

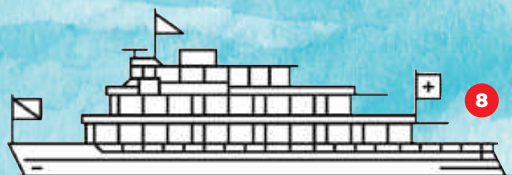


**IMPRINT – ON-BOARD MAGAZINE 2024/2025**

PUBLISHER Zürichsee-Schiffahrtsgesellschaft (ZSG), Postfach 624, CH-8038 Zurich, Tel. +41 (0)44 487 13 33, ahoi@zsg.ch, zsg.ch CONCEPT & EDITING Reto Wilhelm, Anina Rether, Panta Rhei PR AG, Zurich, pantarhei.ch TEXTS Franz Bamert (fb), Anina Rether (rea), Erika Suter (sue) LAYOUT Sonja Studer Grafik AG, sonjastuder.ch FOTOGRAHY/ILLUSTRATIONS Sonja Studer, p. 4; ZSG archive, p. 5; Christian Bösch archive, p. 6/7/8; Lukas Pitsch, Archiv Christan Bösch, p. 9; Michel Beeler, p. 11; Fotostudio Baur / Adina Zwahlen, seeueberquerung.ch, p. 12/13/15; Stiftung-Frauenwinkel, p. 18/19/20; archive or provided by Adelrich Uhr, Markus Inglin p. 24/25 TRANSLATION Astrid Freuler PROOFREADING Erika Suter PROJECT COORDINATION ZSG Sonja Randjelovic PRINTING Erni Druck, Kaltbrunn PRINT RUN 9000 copies ADVERTISING SALES Panta Rhei PR AG, Zurich. Any reproduction requires written permission by Panta Rhei PR AG. March 2024



*The fleet of the Lake Zurich Navigation Company consists of an impressive 17 boats. Which one is your favourite? And what design would you like it to have? Have fun colouring in the boats.*

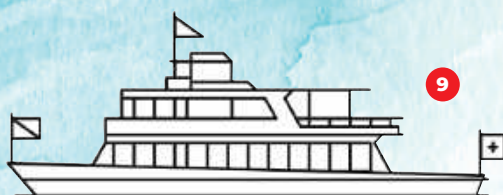


### 1. DS STADT ZÜRICH

Type: Two-deck paddle steamer  
 Built: 1909  
 Power: kW/hp 368/500  
 Length/width: 59.1 m/13.1 m  
 Displacement (empty): 260 t  
 Banquet seats: 148  
 Max. passengers: 750

### 7. DS STADT RAPPERSWIL

Type: Two-deck paddle steamer  
 Built: 1914  
 Power: kW/hp 368/500  
 Length/width: 59.1 m/13.1 m  
 Displacement (empty): 258 t  
 Banquet seats: 162  
 Max. passengers: 750



### 2. MS HELVETIA

Type: Two-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 1964  
 Power: kW/hp 746/1015  
 Length/width: 56 m/12.3 m  
 Displacement (empty): 302 t  
 Banquet seats: 278  
 Max. passengers: 1000

### 8. MS LINTH

Type: Three-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 1952  
 Power: kW/hp 2x448/2x610  
 Length/width: 54 m/11.6 m  
 Displacement (empty): 261 t  
 Banquet seats: 260  
 Max. passengers: 850



### 3. MS PANTA RHEI

Type: Three-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 2007  
 Power: kW/hp 2x449/610  
 Length/width: 56.5 m/10.7 m  
 Displacement (empty): 382 t  
 Banquet seats: 268  
 Max. passengers: 700

### 9. MS LIMMAT

Type: Two-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 1958  
 Power: kW/hp 634/862  
 Length/width: 51 m/10.9 m  
 Displacement (empty): 223 t  
 Banquet seats: 158  
 Max. passengers: 700

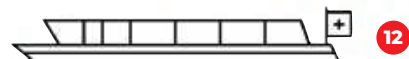


### 4. MS WÄDENSWIL

Type: Two-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 1968  
 Power: kW/hp 559/760  
 Length/width: 48.2 m/9.6 m  
 Displacement (empty): 182 t  
 Banquet seats: 124  
 Max. passengers: 700

### 10. MS SÄNTIS

Type: Two-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 1957  
 Power: kW/hp 441/600  
 Length/width: 42.5 m/7.5 m  
 Displacement (empty): 113.5 t  
 Banquet seats: 114  
 Max. passengers: 300



### 5. MS ALBIS / PFANNENSTIEL / UETLIBERG

Type: Two-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 1997/1998/1999  
 Power: kW/hp 2x250/340  
 Length/width: 42.4 m/7.3 m  
 Displacement (empty): 149 t  
 Banquet seats: 116  
 Max. passengers: 300

### 11. MS BACHTEL

Type: Single-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 1962  
 Power: kW/hp 279/380  
 Length/width: 33.3 m/6.3 m  
 Displacement (empty): 64 t  
 Banquet seats: 62  
 Max. passengers: 250

### 6. MS FORCH / ZIMMERBERG

Type: Single-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 2001  
 Power: kW/hp 2x208/283  
 Length/width: 31.2 m/5.8 m  
 Displacement (empty): 71 t  
 Banquet seats: 0  
 Max. passengers: 150

### 12. eLIMMATBOOTE FLUVIUS / NAVALIS / PONTUS

Type: Single-deck motor vessel  
 Built: 2022  
 Power: kW 2x55  
 Length/width: 22.6 m/3.8 m  
 Displacement (empty): 33.5 t  
 Banquet seats: 0  
 Max. passengers: 60



# A paradise for fauna, flora – and lapwings

*Frauenwinkel marshland and the shallow water zone with the two islands Ufenau and Lützelau form one of Switzerland's most valuable lakeshore landscapes. The nature reserve is home to countless plants and animals. Its most famous inhabitant is the endangered lapwing.*



The Frauenwinkel nature reserve hugs a beautiful bay of Lake Zurich. Stretching across several hectares, the reserve is a popular nesting site for lapwings (1) – and it's clear to see why. Lapwings are waders. During the breeding season they need open areas with little growth and damp ground for sourcing food for their chicks. In the Frauenwinkel, the lapwings therefore mainly position their nests on the marshy sections of the reserve. For feeding, they also venture onto the intensively cultivated land that lies nearby. The near-perfect camouflage afforded by their plumage and the well-concealed nests make these ground breeders very vulnerable, as they are easily overlooked during cultivation. But for the past decade, this risk has successfully been minimised here. Every spring, members of the Frauenwinkel Trust (2) seek out and mark the lapwing nests across the Frauenwinkel and Nuoler Ried areas, so the farmers can spot them and bypass them.

This is just one of several measures put in place to protect these beautiful birds. During the breeding season, electric fences stretching across several kilometres are erected to protect the eggs and young birds from foxes and martens (3). As the area in question covers around 9 hectares, community service teams are brought in to help. The potential problem of crows targeting the nests is taken care of with so-called BirdAlert dispersal systems that send out acoustic signals.



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6

Lapwings are very distinctive birds. In the sun, their plumage shimmers green and purple, their bellies are white and their heads are adorned with a jauntily protruding crest made up of longer feathers (4). The mating season begins in March, as soon as the frosts have passed. Though lapwing pairs remain together for the breeding season, the male sometimes also partners a second female. Lapwings are at their most vociferous during the mating season and can be heard from afar as they perform their acrobatic courtship flights.

“Alongside our work for the lapwings we also focus on protecting other endangered bird species, such as sedge warblers, skylarks and snipes. Our efforts are aimed at conserving habitats, promoting research and education, and raising public awareness regarding the significance of nature conservation,” says Philippe Keiser (5) of the Frauenwinkel Trust.

The nature reserve isn't just a safe haven for birds but also for numerous plants and other animals. Rare orchid varieties, reed beds and a rich variety of insects such as dragon flies and butterflies are found here. Nature enthusiasts will be interested to learn that the pilgrim's path (6) from Pfäffikon train station to Rapperswil offers excellent views of the reserve. Viewing windows in the wood fencing along the visitor path enable observation without the delicate flora and fauna being disturbed. Don't forget your binoculars! With a bit of luck, spring-time visitors will spot some lapwing chicks. *rea*

**FRAUENWINKEL EXPERIENCE**

The Frauenwinkel Trust works to protect and support native plant and animal species. It plans regeneration projects and successfully implements them in cooperation with other stakeholders. Learn about bird life, cultivated landscapes and the reed bed habitat from knowledgeable guides. The guided tours through the Frauenwinkel reserve are an opportunity to observe rare bird species through binoculars or a telescope. The day is brought to a close with a barbecued sausage at the public picnic site.

For more information: 043 844 49 51 or [frauenwinkel.ch](http://frauenwinkel.ch)



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# The Underwater Detective

*Numerous shipwrecks lie scattered across the bed of Lake Zurich. Adelrich Uhr and his colleagues from Swiss Archeodivers bring their secrets and the fateful stories that surround them to the surface.*



Even as a child, Adelrich Uhr always wanted to explore the secrets that lie hidden beneath the surface of the lake. But becoming a professional diver wasn't an option. Born into the world of the late 1950's, he towed the line and trained in what was considered a "proper" profession – he became a machine mechanic. "But I was always drawn to the water," says Uhr, who is now 63 and lives in Hinwil. So things took their inevitable course. He attended diving classes, bought his first diving suit for a princely sum, went on to train as an instructor and founded a diving school for children. Now he still dives for fun and likes to scour the bed of Lake Zurich for stories that would otherwise remain hidden.

The stories he uncovers are about human tragedies and lost boats. The most recent one relates to the wreck of a cargo boat that lies 28 metres beneath the surface, in the vicinity of Feldmeilen. "It was probably a dark stormy night, and someone wasn't keeping proper lookout. What we know for certain is that on 20 March 1906 two motorised cargo boats collided with each other here. The one carrying gravel sank immediately," Uhr tells us. At the time, the event was only reported in a short newspaper statement and quickly got forgotten. Though the wreck remains down on the lake bed, Uhr has brought to light a touching story.

"A couple of years ago, the cantonal administration had the entire lake electronically scanned and I was allowed to interpret the images. As I was doing this, I noticed a small, slightly darker spot. To the untrained eye, it probably wouldn't have meant anything," says Uhr, who now manages the water treatment plant at Hombrechtikon. Adelrich Uhr dived down and found the remains of a boat. Going by the shape and other details, he was able to date the wreck back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. "When I discover a boat, it really grips me. I want to research the



Sketches relating to the sinking of Johann Helbling's cargo boat, which was wrecked in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, plunging its owner into bankruptcy.



history behind it and I have no peace until I've done that." Together with his friends from Swiss Archeodivers he measured the wreck, photographed it and filmed it. Then he did another dive, this time into the archives. He laboriously worked his way through several years of newspaper editions and eventually found the press report mentioned above. "Based on the position, the typical damage suffered by the wreck and other details, the following story emerged: The cargo boat was used to transport gravel and belonged to a Johann Helbling. The boat was uninsured and when it sank it plunged its owner into bankruptcy."

Helbling's misadventure isn't the only one Adelrich Uhr has meticulously researched and documented. The Archeodivers' repository contains another 20 "closed cases". Uhr has also accumulated a vast knowledge on the history of shipping on Lake Zurich. "At the beginning of the last century, a veritable armada of cargo boats criss-crossed the lake, mainly transporting gravel and stone," he recounts. "On some boats, the stonemason would be going about his work during the passage. Most of the boats were already motorised at that time. When fuel became scarce during the First World War, they went back to using sails and wind power."

Many more wrecks and unknown stories lie scattered across the bed of Lake Zurich. Adelrich Uhr calculates that over the past 250 years around 60 to 80 boats have gone down, complete with crew. "In the old days, most people working the boats couldn't swim and simply drowned," he says. The crew of Helbling's boat were lucky – they got rescued. According to Uhr's research, Helbling moved to Canton Lucerne following the bankruptcy and got back on his feet. His descendants were among the founders of the building firm KIBAG. And Adelrich Uhr, who is soon to retire, will carry on immersing himself – both in the waters of Lake Zurich and the local archives. fb

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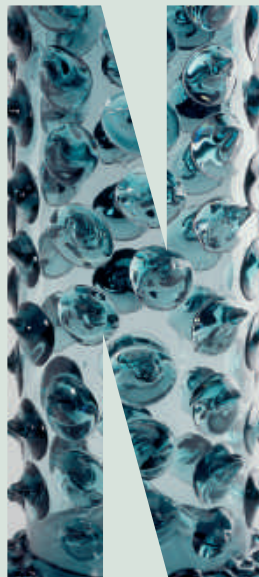
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