

ZURICH WEST

urbanwalk

MAP

From Hardbrücke Station to Prime Tower in two hours

Zurich West is a cooperative development complex shared by the city and private land owners. The former industrial wasteland is now a vibrant quarter with a lot of cultural and post-industrial flair. Discover the Zurich West feeling in two hours during a tour through the historic quarter. The time needed for shopping or stopping for a drink or meal is not included.

When you make your way up from Hardbrücke station you can turn right and walk along Geroldstrasse towards the city center (approx. 15 minutes walk to the main station). Our tour will take you along the Gerold complex towards the Viaduct Arches. There you will find shops, restaurants, parks and snack bars in provisional buildings and in the viaduct itself (see 1 and 2). The shops focus on up-and-coming young labels, Swiss quality products and selected designs. You can find culinary specialties in the market hall at the end of the viaduct.

If you leave the market hall through the main entrance you will find yourself on Limmatstrasse that is lined by art galleries on both sides. The brickwork building on the Löwenbräu complex houses two museums of contemporary art (see 3).

Continue walking down Limmatstrasse to Escher-Wyss-Platz. The area stretching from here to Hardbrücke station is the traffic hub of Zurich West and also feels like the heart of the district. Commuters, night owls and residents come here by tram, bus or S-Bahn. The area beneath Hardbridge (see 4) is the starting point for visiting the most interesting spots the quarter has to offer. Most of the bars and restaurants are located near to the bridge. The river Limmat with its bathing beach lies directly adjacent to Escher-Wyss-Platz alongside a tram depot and the industrial company of MAN Diesel & Turbo Switzerland. Further urban developments are planned for this area. Walking along Hardstrasse towards the main station you will find the multiplex cinema in the old brickwork soap factory and behind it the Steinfels residential development. The former ship-building factory, now home to a theater and Moods jazz club, is located on the opposite side (see 5 and 6).

Our tour takes us along Schiffbaustrasse towards Turbinenplatz and leads to the Technopark and Puls 5 (see 7). This is about the center of the Zurich West quarter. The focus is on service centers and residential buildings. Carry on walking from Turbinenplatz to Hardturmstrasse, at the end of which you will find the former factory workers' houses and the future football stadium (see 8).

The return journey takes you along Pfingstweidstrasse, where new constructions are being planned and built. 5,000 students and teaching staff will soon move into the campus of Zurich's University of the Arts (see 9). Carry on towards the city center, crossing over the grey-and-red pedestrian walkway to the future Pfingstweidpark and then go back to Hardbridge, Maag Village and the Prime Tower (see 10), Switzerland's second-tallest high-rise building.



..... Tram stops



..... S-Trainstation

¹

The Gerold area is very important to the further development of Zurich West: it is one of the top spots where Zurich's young people up to the age of around 35 go to enjoy their free time and characterizes our young, international image. If this area and the Maag Music Hall were to disappear there would be a massive deficit in evening and night-time entertainment in Zurich West. The Gerold area should therefore be enabled to keep fulfilling this function with additional urbanization and usages. The connection between Hardbrücke station and the viaduct is an important traffic route. That is why the city of Zurich wants to convince the four landowners to build a congress hall adapted to the area.

²

The Aussersihler Viaduct is the name given to two bridges running through the former industrial quarter. The bridges were built between 1891 and 1894. These viaduct arches replaced a former earth dam that formed a solid block; the viaduct made it passable. The viaduct was comprehensively renovated between 1940 and 1960 and then again in 2005. The construction of the S-Bahn led to the closure of the smaller Letten viaduct. The viaduct was converted into a pedestrian bridge based on an idea developed by the quarter's association. The two framework bridges have always housed small tradesman's huts ever since they were built. In 2004 the viaduct arches were converted into a shopping and gastronomy zone within the scope of an architecture competition. The architecture was designed by Zurich-based architects EM2N.

3

Löwenbräu Complex: In 1897 the company holding the breweries Wald and Feldbach built the brewery on Limmatstrasse; at the time it was Switzerland's most modern brewery with an output of 60,000 hectoliters per year. It later became the Löwenbräu Zürich AG brewery. Competitor Hüllimann acquired the brewery and closed it down in 1984. It subsequently went into liquidation in 2001. In the meantime, art in the form of museums and galleries moved into the building. The building measuring some 45,000 square meters was converted into a residential complex between 2010 and 2012, after which art returned to the site once again. This is an opportunity for a mixture of private and public institutions and galleries to act as a driver and promoter of contemporary art. The mix of old brewery and modern residential tower block was developed by architects Gigon/Guyer.

4

The Hardbridge was built between 1962 and 1971 and was at the time a pivotal north-south connection for Zurich's bypass in the west. The city has since expanded further still and the so-called ring road west was opened to accommodate the growing volume of traffic. Today, the Hardbridge is an urban element of inner-city traffic illuminated by Zurich's Plan lumière. A tram route on top of the bridge will open in the near future. The Hardbridge is not uncontested among local residents as it has always represented a corridor of noise that cuts through the city quarter.

5

Steinfels Complex: The former soap factory on Heinrich-strasse was converted into the first multi-functional building in Zurich West between 1993 and 1996. The initial building combined a multiplex cinema - it was the birth of the first audience cinema with a backdrop of culture and entertainment - with restaurants, apartments and, on the rear side, studios for living and working. This was followed by a second development stage with more apartment buildings and commercial properties on the ground floor. A little later - and all because an obstinate motorcycle repair shop owner refused to move - Zürcher Kantonalbank built a commercial and residential block on Josefstrasse where the soap tower once stood. All three projects are founded on the private design plan known as the Steinfels Complex 1988 to 96.

6

Schiffbau: The Zürcher Schauspielhaus theater company uses the industrial building where ships were once built as a production and performance location. The shipyard hall (approx. 400 seats), the box (up to 200 seats) and the matchbox (around 80 seats) are home to the Zürcher Schauspielhaus theater company. Two new buildings complement the shipyard hall that was refurbished between 1996 and 2000. The site measures 15,700 square meters and contains 19 privately owned apartments, a restaurant and Moods jazz club; it also houses the theater company's rehearsal stages, workshops and technical office. The project emerged from a study assignment and is based on the private Escher Wyss Complex Plan (1995/99). The architecture was designed by Ortner und Ortner of Vienna.

7

Turbinenplatz: The former industrial complex measures 14,000 square meters and is the second largest square in Zurich. It was redesigned by ADR Sarl of Geneva and gifted to the city of Zurich in 2003 by Sulzer Immobilien AG (a former industrial corporation) as the owner of the complex. At night the square is lit up in blue, orange and violet. The concrete surface bears witness to an industrial past. The former Foundry Hall at Turbinenplatz, a building and facilities of historic industrial importance, have been combined with a contemporary building structure to provide usage space on the ground floor as well as offices and loft apartments.

8

Bernoulli Houses and Hardturm Stadium: The Bernoulli Houses, designed between 1914 and 1929 by architect Hans Bernoulli, lie to the north of Zurich West, between the flow of water and the flow of traffic. Each house has a garden and a common area of ground. The garden is private property, whilst the ground on the other side of the house belongs jointly to all residents. The Hardturm football stadium that once stood opposite the complex was opened in 1929 and was the venue of the 1954 World Cup. The stadium's private operator and the city of Zurich had intended to integrate a shopping mall as part of refurbishment plans for the stadium. Although the project was approved by the voting population, it was delayed by legal action undertaken by residents and environmental protection groups; the real estate crisis also cast a shadow of doubt over the profitability of the project. The city therefore acquired the old stadium, demolished it and began planning a new stadium. The new buildings will include a pure football stadium and residential dwellings.

9

University of the Arts and the food mile: In addition to being an industrial complex, Zurich West was also a food mile. Zurich's wholesale market opposite the stadium was opened in 1980. The wholesalers relocated from the area near the main station to Zurich West. Retail chain stores Migros and Coop had also moved their distribution hubs for Zurich to Pfingstweidstrasse. Coop has since moved away again, whilst Migros plans to install a mixed concept distribution hub with additional functions in Herdern. The dairy production facility the Toni Molkerei on the opposite side went into operation in 1977 but was closed down in 2000 due to huge excess capacities in milk processing. Even the dairy's most successful product, Toni yogurt in a glass jar, was unable to prevent its demise. A competition was launched within the scope of an accompanied study to generate ideas for the architectural implementation of the area's future use as center of education and culture. The University of the Arts will open its new doors here in 2014.

10

Maag Village: Max Maag founded the Maag Gear Factory at 219 Hardstrasse in 1913 - at the time it was located outside of the city, but the area grew over the years to become Zurich's industrial heartland. Maag counted among the world's leading manufacturers of gear assemblies for gas turbines, compressors, ships and cement works. Today, 100 years later, the Prime Tower and so-called Platform, both designed by Gigon/Guyer, stand where Maag once milled and drilled. The industrial building bearing the name Diagonal was restored in accordance with listed building specifications and integrated in the Maag Village. The Maag Music Hall situated opposite the Diagonal has become an important public attraction in the quarter. Unfortunately, its future is anything but secure.