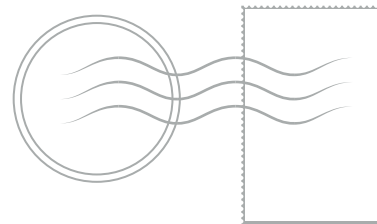


DESTINATIONS

EUROPE | SWITZERLAND

POSTCARD

Zurich



Growing demand for cooler holidays could see clients diving into Zurich's outdoor pools this summer, writes **Yousif Nour**

The Swiss love their *badis* – outdoor pools – where city dwellers not only swim, but also socialise, have a drink or a bite to eat, or simply relax by the water.

The UK represents the fourth-largest market for Swiss tourism and, despite visiting the country regularly, I had never had the chance to take the plunge into a *badi* myself. But as the temperature in Switzerland's largest city nudged 30C, I decided to investigate how the locals like to cool off.

My first visit was to Unterer Letten, which was built in 1909, making it the oldest *badi* in the city. Formed from a section of the River Limmat, the *badi* is free to visit and easily accessible from the centre of Zurich.

I watched as local teenagers jumped from platforms to drift in the gentle current until they reached the other end of the 400-metre pool. They then climbed out, walked to the top of the pool and started all over again.

Unterer Letten is also a hugely popular place for locals to hang out, with cultural events taking place regularly on summer evenings.

The next day, I went to the more relaxed Seebad Engle at the northern tip of Lake Zurich, which offers a swimming pool for women and a mixed-gender pool, as well as a sauna to warm up in on cooler days.

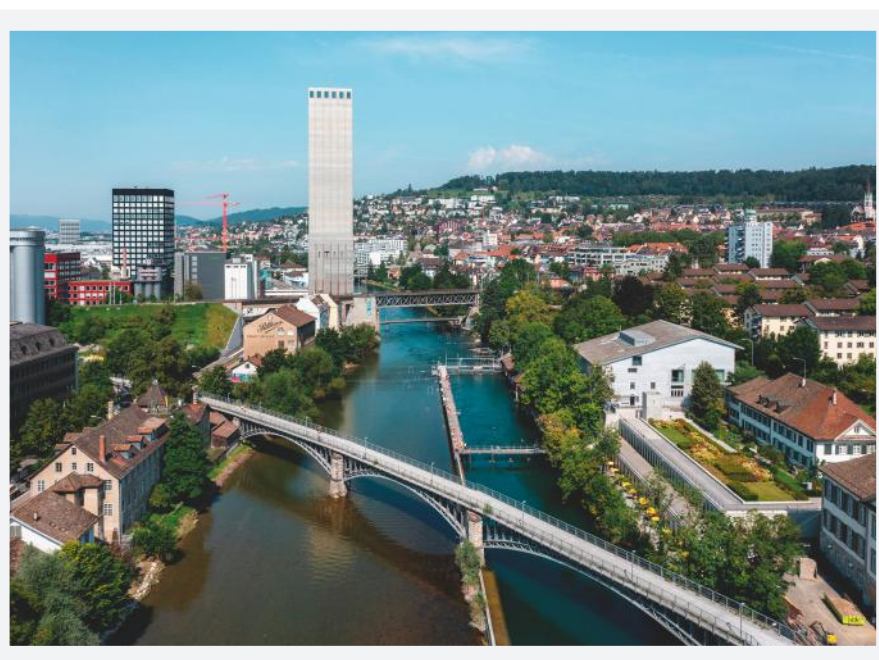
With an entry fee of about £7.50, Seebad Engle was far less crowded than Unterer Letten; advise clients to get here in the early afternoon, while the locals are at work. After a brief but refreshing swim, I enjoyed a peppermint tea with stunning views of the lake.

For a change of pace, I headed to District One for a stroll around Zurich's historic old town, which is home to the city's most famous shopping street, Bahnhofstrasse.

Few cities can match Zurich's blend of Alpine charm and urban culture; if clients are lucky, they may even spot herons or red kites.

The great thing about *badis* is that they're emblematic of the Swiss way of life, providing a place to step back from urban life to chill out, cool down and keep fit.

What's not to love? **TV**



BOOK IT

Osprey Holidays offers a two-night trip to Zurich from £599 per person, based on two adults sharing. The price includes B&B accommodation at the four-star Boutique Hotel Helmhaus Zurich, 15kg luggage allowance and flights from Gatwick on June 16. ospreyholidays.com



TOP: Unterer Letten, bordering River Limmat
ABOVE: Seebad Engle, on the northern edge of Lake Zurich

PICTURES: Cemil Erkoc/Zürich Tourismus; Shutterstock/Mikhail Grachikov