



# LOCATION WITH PROSPECTS





Your advantages at a glance

## SITUATION AND MOBILITY

Canton Nidwalden's central location, accessibility and exceptional, unspoilt countryside are all indicators of its quality of life. The nearby lake and mountains provide a wealth of recreational opportunities, while the canton itself offers an extensive range of sport and leisure activities. The aviation links are unique, too: Buochs Airport is popular with private individuals as well as domestic and international business jet companies.

## INNOVATIONS

Innovators soon feel at home in Nidwalden. The conditions are right. Progress and commercial prosperity are the order of the day. Moreover, having reduced its tax levy on licensing revenues – a move that is unique in Switzerland – Nidwalden is now considered a benchmark research location.

## TAXATION

Nidwalden ranks amongst Switzerland's three most tax-favoured cantons. The canton also compares extremely favourably at an international level. With sound finances and effective budgetary policies, Nidwalden is a model economy whose success is assured for a long time to come.

## SITUATION AND MOBILITY

**Centrally located for optimum access.** Zurich and its international airport are a little under an hour away, as are the cities of Basel and Berne. Central Europe is equally easy to reach thanks to Nidwalden's excellent road, rail and air links. Speaking of roads, Nidwalden is on the A2 motorway, one of Europe's all-important arterial links – this one connects Hamburg with Palermo.

**International flight connections.** Nidwalden's affinity for aviation is legendary: the world-renowned Pilatus aircraft company has been based here for over 70 years. The focus of its operations is on Buochs Airport, which is available to private as well as commercial users. As a result, Nidwalden benefits from exceptionally favourable international accessibility.

**First-class location with attractive prospects.** Nidwalden's exclusive locational advantages make it a highly attractive proposition as a place to live and work. The canton is also noted for its mild tax climate, its central location with international connections and the population's high standard of education and training. With favourable conditions in place, all the signs are that this is set to continue.

**Business friendly and outward looking.** The inhabitants of Nidwalden are outward looking, business friendly and very well educated and trained. The key to Nidwalden's success lies in its harmonisation of politics, administration, business and society.



## HIGH-QUALITY OF LIFE

**Quality of life within reach of lake and mountains.** Lake Lucerne's fjord-like shoreline and the canton's proud mountains and authentic, picturesque villages all conspire to produce Nidwalden's exceptional quality of life. Achieving a harmonious work-life balance here is easy.

**Living in the heart of nature.** Nidwalden's overall attractiveness – and hence its popularity as a place to live – is boosted by its proximity to the centres of both Switzerland and Europe. A selection of flats and houses for rent and owner-occupation is always available. It's needless to mention that Nidwalden prides itself on its family and child friendliness.

**Lake Lucerne – a dream of a setting.** Lake Lucerne takes its original German name – Lake of the 4 Forested Cantons – from the cantons that share its shoreline: Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, and Obwalden/Nidwalden. The lake – together with the uniquely beautiful mountains – exerts an indelible influence on the striking natural setting that so characterises Nidwalden. The conditions for water sports are perfect, while the tranquillity offered by the lake never ceases to amaze.

**Railways and cableways galore.** Nowhere else in Switzerland is there such a profusion of adhesion and cog railways, funicular railways, aerial cableways and outdoor lifts as in Nidwalden, all providing access to the surrounding region and mountains.

**Direct access.** Nidwalden benefits from direct access to the A2 motorway, part of the all-important European arterial link connecting Hamburg with Palermo.



**Lake Lucerne.** The conditions for water sports are perfect, while the tranquillity offered by the lake never ceases to amaze.



**All aboard.** The Zentralbahn railway takes commuters to work, students to school or college, visitors to places of interest and the local population to a range of events.



**Recreation.** Sport, exercise and recreation – from relaxed and easy-going to ultra-fast and adrenalin laden.



## INNOVATIONS

**Room for innovation.** Nidwalden welcomes innovators with open arms – many have been successfully based here for years due to the conducive conditions. Innovations, after all, need elbow room. Creativity emerges where the environment is right. The key is the appropriateness of the conditions. An example of this is the newly created Licence Box (IP Box). This allows for a major cut (to 1.2 per cent) in the tax on profits generated by licensing revenues.

**Short-run networks.** Innovations need to be realised and marketed. This calls for networks capable of handling the delivery. Nidwalden is very well networked. The cantonal authorities offer services from a single source for prompt turnarounds without the red tape. As a member of the Central Swiss ITZ Innovation Transfer Network – the hub between science and business – Nidwalden provides a proven and stable link between its client businesses and the Central Swiss campus. Nidwalden also hosts the forward-looking Micro Center Central-Switzerland (MCCS) – a hub of nanotechnology expertise.

**Where growth-drivers are based.** Nidwalden's effective partnership of business, politics, science and administration helps ensure that the conditions generate the requisite benefits. The canton's business development board acts as an interface by providing useful contacts and coordinating a series of core services from a single source.



## TRAINING AND THE JOB MARKET

**Training as a success factor.** Switzerland is a world leader when it comes to academic education and vocational training. Swiss universities enjoy an international reputation that is second to none. The dual education system, consisting of a valuable combination of academic and vocational training, is a genuine success story. Nidwalden offers its citizens high-quality educational opportunities covering kindergarten and primary school, as well as secondary and middle school. The region's teaching institutions offer first-class teaching posts, while students attending the country's universities are assured superb tuition geared towards achieving excellent qualifications of value in the real world.

**Further training/continuous professional development.** Switzerland's further education offering is also unparalleled. The flexibility of the country's education and training system means that opportunity continues to expand at tertiary level, enabling graduates to keep optimising and fine-tuning the knowledge and skills they have acquired.

**Reservoir of qualified personnel.** A company is only as good as its workforce. Nidwalden boasts a high density of qualified personnel. Benefiting from a good education, with many of them undertaking further training abroad, people from Nidwalden like to come back to work in the region where they grew up. All this is good news for companies looking to base their business model on reliability, quality, safety and security.

### THE ADVANTAGES IN PICTURES

**Pioneers in education.** The canton has played a proactive role in the development of pedagogy. The Nidwalden school paradigm has found its way into Switzerland's education system.



**Craftsmanship in the genes.** Manufacturing enterprises of international repute known for their precision also act as suppliers to renowned industrial conglomerates.



**Centre of research.** Nidwalden offers an excellent environment capable of fostering scientific and commercial progress.



**Growth through innovation.** Thanks to excellent networking opportunities, Nidwalden offers fast-track openings to technical and entrepreneurial know-how without all the red tape.

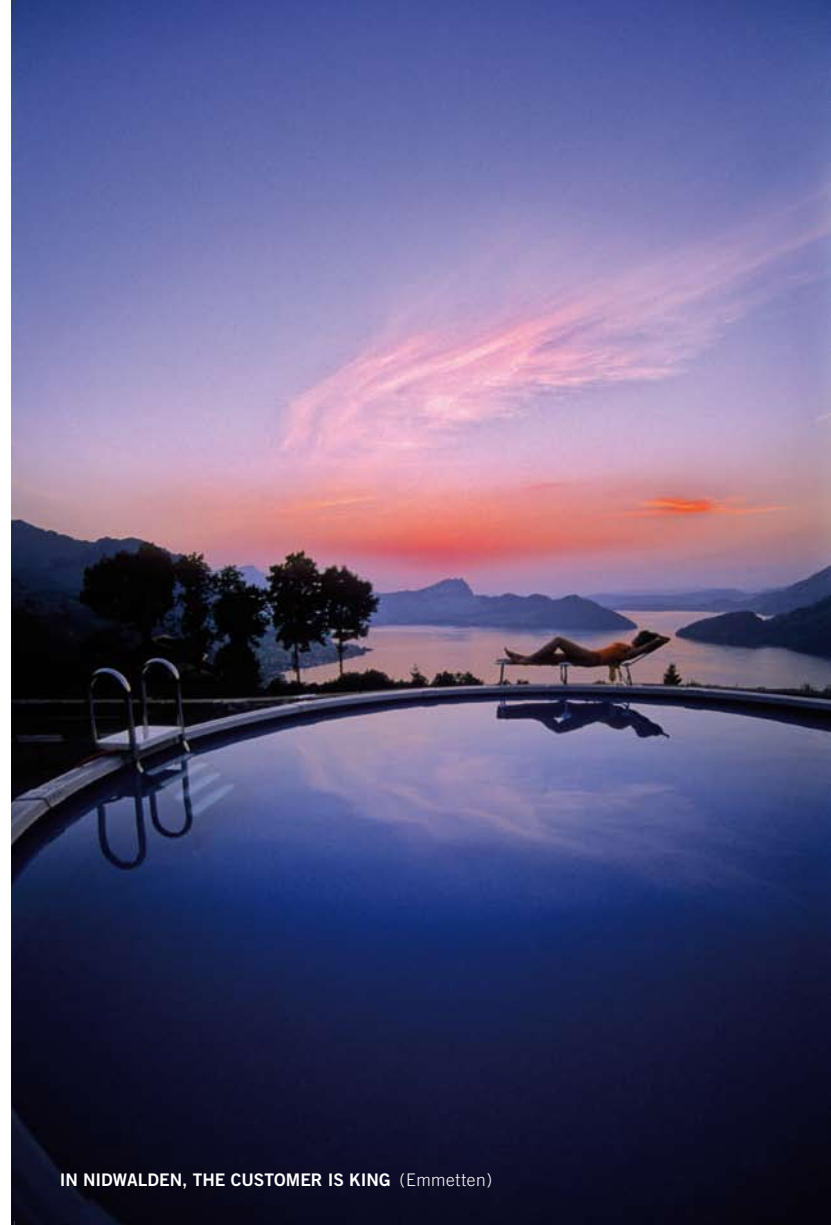


## TAXATION

**Highflying Nidwalden.** Nidwalden ranks amongst the most tax-favoured cantons in Switzerland. It intends to remain there, which is why it regularly adjusts its tax legislation.

**Individual taxation.** People domiciled in Nidwalden benefit from low income and wealth taxation – nationally and internationally amongst the lowest of their kind. Families will find two aspects particularly welcome: individual taxation for married partners, and the eligibility for high child allowance if pre-school children are cared for at home. Other factors are the mitigation of double taxation on income from qualified investments, and a reduction in the tax levied on other yields on assets.

**Legal entities.** At 0.01 per cent (0.1 per mill), the canton's capital tax levy is extremely low. Research and development activities receive preferential tax treatment, in that there is now no limit to the amount that can be offset. Innovation has been given a huge boost thanks to the cut in the corporate tax levy on licensing revenues via the new Licence Box rule (OECD-compliant): in the case of net licensing revenue generated by the exploitation of intangible assets, the tax levy has been reduced to just 20 per cent of the standard corporate tax rate of 6 per cent; this means that worldwide licensing revenues are taxed at a flat rate of just 1.2 per cent. Note, also, that foundations domiciled in Nidwalden benefit from Switzerland's lowest corporate tax – just 1 per cent flat rate.



## TRADITIONS AND CULTURE

**Provenance with a future.** Nidwalden loves traditions, which it regards as forming the basis of an active cultural life. Art, museums, music and theatre all play their part in invigorating society and shaping the character of a population keen on experiencing culture. The cultural creativity of Nidwalden's inhabitants stamps its identity on daily life here and enhances the canton's quality of life.

**All from a single source.** Nidwalden is easy to navigate – nowhere is very far. The canton has a lean administration, and contacts are rapidly established with decision makers. Communications are straightforward, while processes and procedures are open and transparent. Queries and concerns are handled promptly without any red tape.

**Strength in unity.** Cooperation is given priority in Nidwalden. This sense of solidarity is what makes the canton such a special place. Incomers quickly feel at home here.

**Enjoyment – part of the quality of life.** Regions benefiting from a high quality of living tend also to have above-average taste when it comes to gastronomy. The people of Nidwalden are very fastidious about the quality of their produce and how it is prepared. Local products including meat, fish, vegetables, dairy products and eggs make a beeline from producer to table. The canton's traditional hotels and restaurants are passionate about their specialities and take immense care in their preparation and serving.

## THE ADVANTAGES IN PICTURES

**Short paths.** Business, politics, science and administration work in close partnership for maximum efficiency. Nidwalden guarantees short paths between key decision-makers.



**Learning from each other.** Mutual exchanges of experience and insight. Cross-generational cooperation makes Canton Nidwalden strong.



**Caring for the countryside.** Caring for a unique slice of nature, so that future generations may also enjoy the beauties of Nidwalden.



**Safeguarding cultural heritage.** Traditions and customs help shape cultural life in Nidwalden – even in the 21st century.





## LOCATIONAL ADVANTAGES

**Stability and security as success factors.** Nidwalden is home to some 41,000 inhabitants across eleven municipalities. The cantonal capital is Stans. The canton is politically stable, and security is at the root of its prosperity. Its economic strength and per-capita income are above the Swiss average.

## AT YOUR SERVICE

It is easy to keep a general overview of Nidwalden, where distances are short. The canton defines itself as a service enterprise that stands in the service of its citizens. It is supported and represented by a number of organisations and institutions, each with its own comprehensive range of services:

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