

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

SCHWEIZER NATIONALFEIERTAG—SWISS NATIONAL DAY

der 1. August (1291)

20 KEY DATES IN SWITZERLAND'S HISTORY



As Switzerland prepares to celebrate its national day on August 1st, we take a look back through the country's long and fascinating history, starting with the date the Confederation was born.

1291

This date is considered the founding of the old Swiss Confederation and is celebrated on National Day. On August 1st 1291 the country's three founding cantons, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden (now divided into Obwalden and Nidwalden), came together on the Rütli meadow on Lake Lucerne to swear the oath of the Confederation, an alliance aimed at better protecting themselves from attacks by outside forces.

1332

Lucerne joined the Confederation on this date, followed by Zurich, Bern, Glarus and Zug in subsequent years until 1353. The Confederation then didn't gain any new member cantons until 1481, however its territory expanded during this time when the Confederates conquered Aargau and Thurgau – until then part of Austria – and brought parts of Appenzell, St Gallen, Schaffhausen, Fribourg, Biel and Solothurn under their control as associated places.