

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

## SCHWEIZER NATIONALFEIERTAG—SWISS NATIONAL DAY

der 1. August (1291)

### 20 KEY DATES IN SWITZERLAND'S HISTORY

**1476**

The Confederates defeated the Burgundy army and Duke Charles the Bold – who was seen as a threat to the Confederation – in vicious battles in Grandson and Murten/Morat that gained Swiss fighters a reputation as mercenaries. From then on the Confederation made considerable money by hiring out its fighters to foreign countries, a policy that remained until the mid 19th century and is still seen in symbolic form in the [Swiss Guard](#) at the Vatican.

**1481**

Solothurn and Fribourg joined the Confederation.

**1501**

Basel and Schaffhausen joined the Confederation .

**1515**

The Confederates lost the fight for Lombardy to the French at the bloody Battle of Marignano. In the landmark peace treaty the Swiss were granted what is now the canton of Ticino, and agreed to never again fight against the French. That battle brought the Confederates' military expansion to an end and is seen by some as the beginning of Switzerland's famed neutrality. As the [Swiss foreign office](#) says, history taught Switzerland to keep out of foreign conflicts. Originally “a kind of emergency stop-gap”, neutrality later became a foreign policy norm.

**1519**

Swiss man Ulrich Zwingli introduced reformist ideas to Zurich and tried to spread the Reformation throughout the Confederation. Zurich became the first canton to officially adopt the Reformation in 1525. Zwingli died fighting against Catholics in 1531.



*The Reformation Wall in Geneva.*