

Lost in a real-life CHARLIE'S CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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A few thousand miles away from Dhaka, in a small town located in the outskirts of Zurich lies a place known for its signature centerpiece worldwide, a fountain of real chocolate. Emphasis on real chocolate! It's the Lindt Chocolate Fountain, a giant, golden whisk standing at 9.3 meters that drips 1,500 kg of chocolate creating an illusion of endless creamy goodness that welcomes all your senses as soon as you step inside the enormous chocolate factory, the Lindt Home of Chocolate.

The entry doors work albeit in an amusingly different way. Unlike the preconceived notion of scan and enter, these doors only let you in at the time slot you selected during the online purchase. But of course, you are free to try a dozen times! Because I surely did. On the bright side, this means a bit more time to take pictures with the gorgeous fountain, if you're early. Or grab a sweet treat at the Lindt Café right next to the entrance doors. The most suitable ticket for adults and tourists is priced at CHF 17 or about BDT 2,345 and it is recommended to buy in advance.

The chocolate tour begins with a vast but digestible history of chocolate. Don't forget to grab the audio guide (available in several languages) which makes the learning process interactive and much easier, especially for those who do not want to read blocks of text. Personally, I found the introductory section of the museum very interesting and

intellectually enriching. It simply makes you look at cocoa beans and chocolate differently. But, like the rest of my family, many prefer to fast forward to the chocolate tasting part!

This part of the building is the busiest, no doubt. Everybody wants to have a bite! It's like reconnecting with your younger self and finally fulfilling the dream of bingeing infinite chocolate. The first point serves hot chocolate from the three core varieties: dark, white, and milk. With a spoonful of white chocolate, I headed to the next section: chocolate bars! Now, here are huge dispensers with glass walls set up in a fixed carousel that pop a bar when your hand motions forward. Quick and easy.

There are over ten different kinds of flavour. And you must try them all. Jogging my memory, some of my favourites were sea salt, hazelnut, and orange. Mint, chili, and coconut were some of the one-of-a-kind flavours that stuck with me.

At the end of the tour, you will find the world's largest Lindt store. For any chocolate lover, it's quite a bewildering experience. Whether it is a bar, or a ball, or something entirely different, I have spotted plenty of Lindt flavours that are not found anywhere else.

My only regret is that I did not hoard enough flavours to try, a psychological side-effect of gorging mouthfuls of pralines. And as I left with a bag full of chocolatey souvenirs and little gifts from Lindt, I only wished to share this moment with the ones waiting for me at home.

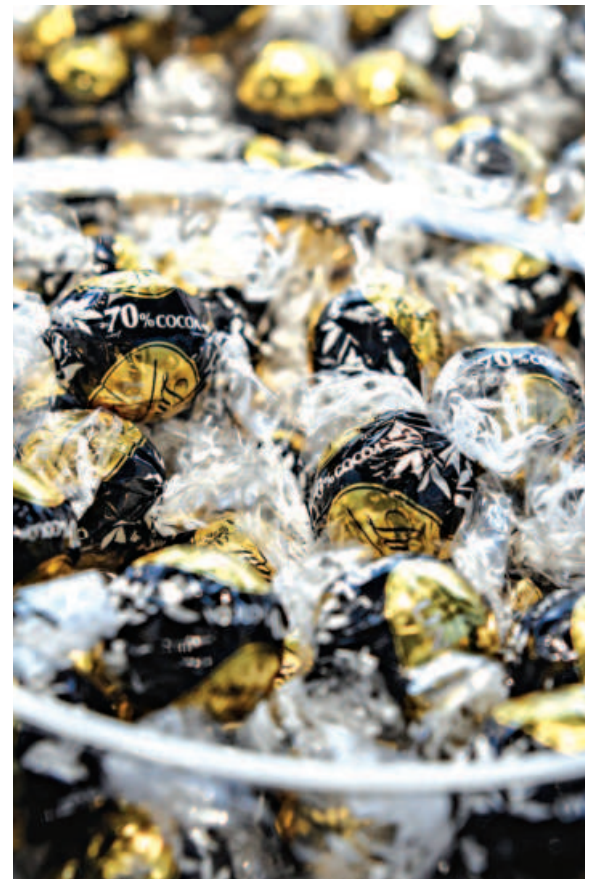


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