



BASEL - centre of the idyllic border triangle of France, Germany and Switzerland

Basel lies in the heart of Europe, on both banks of the Rhine. The city is the centre of the idyllic border triangle of France, Germany and Switzerland - lying between the Swiss Jura, Germany's Black Forest and the Vosges in Alsace.

Be inspired by the city on the Rhine with all its facets.

Sightseeing

The cathedral - With its red sandstone walls, multicoloured roof tiles and twin towers, the Cathedral is a dominant feature of the city. The crypt, the choir, the tomb of Erasmus of Rotterdam, the "Galluspforte" and the two cloisters are a testimony to the eventful history of its construction over a period of several centuries.

"Marktplatz" and City Hall - Particularly worth seeing are the Council Chambers, the atmospheric Inner Courtyard, the romantic arcades and the imposing tower.

Basel's Old Town - Travel through time as you explore Basel on foot. Basel's Old Town is one of the best-preserved and most beautiful in Europe. In few other cities you will find buildings dating back to the 15th century contrasting with and yet complementing the modern works of internationally renowned architects.

Rhine Port / Border triangle - Experience the big wide world in miniature. Where Germany, France and Switzerland meet and the ships leave for the North Sea, is also the hub and pivotal point of Switzerland's raw material supply. On a lock cruise to Rheinfelden or during a harbour cruise with the white fleet of the "Basler Personenschiffahrt" the city can be easily explored from the water. Or discover the Rhine in and around Basel by "Rhytaxi".

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Varied city of the arts

Basel is a European cultural centre: Almost 40 museums, some of world renown, such as the “Fondation Beyeler” and the “Kunstmuseum”, the Basel Theatre staging plays, operas and ballet, as well as 25 further small theatres, a musical stage, countless galleries, music stages of all sizes and over 40 cinema screens all contribute to a rich cultural life. The city ranks with the European élite in the fine arts, as is demonstrated by its hosting ‘Art Basel’, the world’s leading contemporary art fair.

The Roman Town Augusta Raurica - The site also features exhibitions in the Roman Museum and the most significant silver treasure from the Late Antique period.

Fondation Beyeler - Top works of the classical modern period from Cézanne to van Gogh, Klee, Miró to Warhol and Rothko - within the Fondation Beyeler is one of the most famous private collections in the world, with top works of the classical modern period.

The **Kunstmuseum Basel** (art museum) houses the Gallery and the “Kupferstichkabinett” (Department of Prints and Drawings). The main focus is on paintings and drawings by artists active in the Upper Rhine region between 1400 and 1600 and of the 19th and 21st century.

Congresses and fairs

- Basel World – famous international fair for watches and jewellery
- Art Basel – international art fair
- Basel autumn fair for young and old

Traditions



Basel’s famous carnival

“Fasnacht” is like one big family party for the whole of Basel, although guests are obviously more than welcome. It has to be said that our carnival, whose origins are deeply rooted in local tradition, does not give visitors much of an opportunity for active participation in the proceedings. And there are bound to be many things you simply will not understand: our Basel dialect, the things we make fun of (usually local events and personalities), and our own special brand of humour with its strong irony. Even

so, you are sure to be fascinated by the incredible party atmosphere, the vivid colours of the carnival costumes, the stirring tunes of the drummers and piccolo players, and the weird and wonderful «Guggen» music played by the brass bands.

Environs of Basel

Alsace (France) - vineyard-covered hills and charming villages.

Southern Baden (Germany) - discover the fairytale Black Forest.

Environs (Switzerland) - discover the leisure activities and spas, cultural highlights in north-western Switzerland.

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