

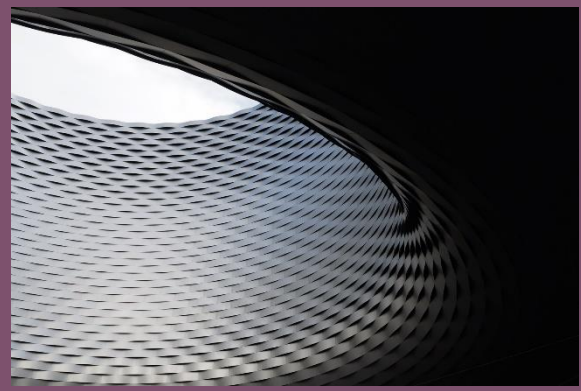


**pullman**  
HOTELS AND RESORTS

## **BASEL EUROPE**

Region Sightseeing and Activities





## Cultural City Basel

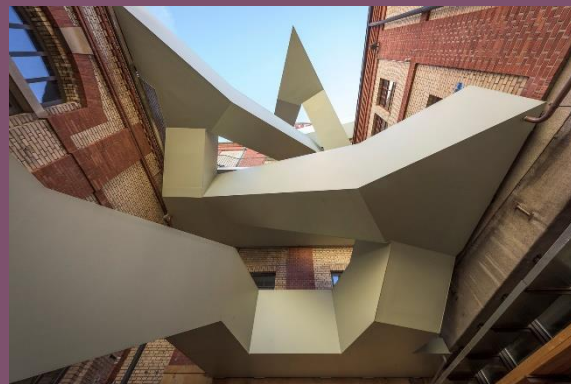
The cultural capital of Switzerland has something to offer for every taste and for every time of the year. Visit one of the city's more than 30 museums. From art to history to toy worlds, a trip to one of Basel's museums can be planned to suit every taste. Visit one of the annual events such as the Basel Carnival, the Autumn Fair and the romantic Christmas Market or simply stroll through the enchanting Old Town. Families don't fall by the wayside in Basel either. The old Roman city of Augusta Raurica near Augst or the Basel Zoo as well the Spielzeug Welten Museum offer plenty of entertainment for young visitors. Come to Basel and convince yourself of the touristic richness of the northwestern Swiss region.





## Explore Basel

Be it the sweet old town, the modern architecture of Basel or one of over 30 museums. There are plenty of sightseeing alternatives in Basel. Find inspiration on the following pages.







# Museums

## Fondation Beyeler

In 1982 Hildy and her husband Ernst Beyeler founded the Art Foundation, which primarily presents classical modern and contemporary art to its visitors. Various works can be studied and admired not only in the museum but also in the garden area of the Fondation Beyeler. The Museum shows works by Degas, Cézanne, Monet, Rousseau, van Gogh, Kandinsky, Matisse, Léger, Giacometti, Picasso, Miró, Calder, Klee, Ernst, Mondrian, Warhol, Lichtenstein, Bacon and more. For lovers of modern art, a visit to the Fondation Beyeler is definitely a must.





## Rehberger-Weg

The Rehberger-Weg connects the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen and the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein. The path thus connects two countries and two art institutions with one another. A total of 24 works of art can be found on the 5km long hiking trail.





## Vitra Design Museum

The Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein is one of the world's leading design museums. The unmistakable building conveys the artistic interior at sight alone. The focus of the collection is on furniture and interior design and shows pieces by world-renowned industrial designers: George Nelson, Alvar Aalto, Verner Panton, Dieter Rams, Jean Prouvé and Michael Thonet to just name a few. Everything from sketches to prototypes to finished products can be found in the Vitra Design Museum.







## Tinguely Museum

The art of the Basel artist Jean Tinguely is definitely unique. He became known primarily for his kinetic art. Various machines and apparatuses that Tinguely developed during his career can be seen in the Tinguely Museum. This is a special art form for all age categories. There is hardly a person who is not moved by Tinguely's dynamic art.





## Kunstmuseum Basel

The Kunstmuseum Basel is truly an institution steeped in history. Not only is it one of the first art museums in the world to be open to the public, it also has many other exciting stories to tell. In 1967, for example, the sale of two Pablo Picasso paintings on loan threatened to take place. The people of Basel did not want this to happen and applied for a state loan of CHF 6 million by referendum and collected a further CHF 2.4 million to preserve the paintings for the museum. This moved Pablo Picasso to such an extent that he donated four more works to the Kunstmuseum, which the director at the time was personally allowed to select in Picasso's atelier. The Kunstmuseum's collection comprises over 4000 sculptures, paintings, installations and videos, as well as 300,000 prints and drawings from over seven centuries. This is the largest art collection in Switzerland. Definitely a paradise for every art lover.







## Sightseeing

### Old Town

Explore the historic old town in the centre of Basel with its half-timbered houses from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Stroll from the Spalentor via the Spalenberg to the middle Rhine bridge. The rather unusual combination of tradition and modernity creates small tensions, but never breaks the harmony of the cityscape. The best way to explore Basel's old town is on foot. Several restaurants and cafés invite you to make a small stop in between.





## Market Sqaure & Town Hall

Basel's market square forms the centre of Basel's Old Town. Buy market-fresh goods for a snack on the way and gaze at the time-honoured town hall of Basel. The red sandstone building stands on the same site where the political centre of the city was established in 1290. The town hall was built between 1504 and 1514, during which time the coats of arms of the different cantons were mounted on the battlements. The town parliament still meets in the halls of the red sandstone building with its distinctive tower.







## Münster & Pfalz

The Münster is the Cathedral in Basel and one of the main sights of the city. The Protestant Reformed church was built between 1019 and 1500 in Romanesque and Gothic style. The construction took more than 500 years in three different phases. Since the severe earthquake of 1356, only two of the former four church towers remain. But this does not take away any grace or atmosphere from today's sight. Right behind the cathedral lies the so-called Pfalz. A large Rhine terrace with breathtaking views of the Rhine knee and the Kleinbasel on the right side of the Rhine. Just below the Pfalz is the jetty of the lion ferry for a leisurely crossing of the river. Who visits Basel should have seen the Münster and the Pfalz in any case.







## Ferries

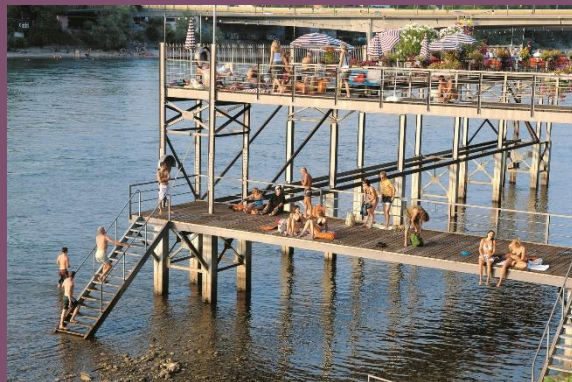
As an alternative to the five Rhine bridges, Basel has a total of 4 ferries. The ferries are all named after a heraldic animal of the Kleinbasel guilds. The St. Alban ferry "Wild Maa" the wild man, the Münster ferry "Leu" the lion, the Klingenthal ferry "Vogel Gryff" the griffin and the St. Johanns ferry "Ueli" the fool cross the river with you. The ferries are not motorised and only function with the force of the Rhine current. For sure the most comfortable way to traverse the Rhine. This is not just a touristic offer, as the locals also use the ferries very frequently to get to the other side of the river.





## Rhine swimming

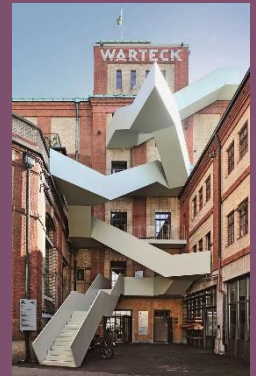
In the warm season, the people of Basel are also drawn to the water. Unfortunately, Basel is not close to a lake, but the need is known to be inventive. In 2002, the so-called "Wickelfisch" was developed, which already enjoys cult status in the city today. The "Wickelfisch" is a bathing bag. The people of Basel usually meet at the Tinguely Museum, the Birsköpfli or at one of the Rhine bathhouses. They put their belongings in the bathing bag, jump into the water and let the current carry them down the Rhine. The "Wickelfisch" can be acquired in different shops and in the tourism offices of the city. Try a swim in the Rhine and let yourself be carried by the current. Good swimming skills are required for a bath in the Rhine.





## Architecture

Basel is the perfect destination for architecture lovers. In recent decades, numerous Swiss architectural firms have built stunning buildings all over the world. Many of these offices are based in Basel, such as Christ & Gantenbein, Diener & Diener Architekten or Herzog & de Meuron. Accordingly, many buildings of these offices can also be found in their hometown. Virtually nowhere else can that many buildings by world-famous architects be surveyed in so little space like in Basel.

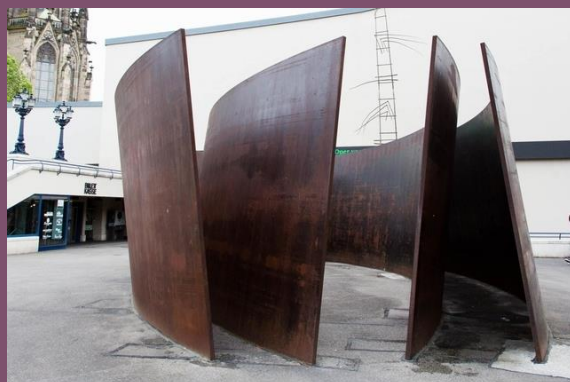






## Art in Public Spaces

As the cultural capital of Switzerland, Basel's public squares offer a wide range of art. You will find classical art such as the Tinguely fountain on Theaterplatz and the colourful sculpture "Lieu dit" by Basel artist Michael Grossert on the Heuwaage as well as numerous urban art works. Find all the "Invaders" in the city or visit the so-called "Line" which decorates the train line to the SBB railway station with numerous graffiti, which made Basel the graffiti stronghold of Switzerland in the 1990s. Whether modern, historic or urban, Basel's public spaces have something to offer for every taste.





## Trination Point

Basel's internationality is no accident. The people of Basel have been used to doing business internationally for quite some time. The simple reason is, that three national borders meet in the middle of the Rhine in the north of Basel. At this point France, Germany and Switzerland meet at the so-called trination point. The proximity to each other shaped the entire region socially and economically. Visit the trination point monument in Basel's Rhine harbor and the nearby Holzpark Klybeck. This small harbor utopia offers bars, restaurants and entertainment in an alternative style. If you are tired of the mainstream, you should definitely visit the Holzpark Klybeck.







## Kid Activities

### Spielzeug Welten

The Spielzeug Welten Museum takes you into the world of toys. It is the largest museum of its kind in Europe. From the past to the present, the toys on display enchant children and adults alike. Whose heart doesn't get warm in a room full of teddy bears? The Spielzeug Welten Museum always offers exciting exhibitions with continually changing themes. The perfect museum for a family visit.







## Augusta Raurica

The Roman settlement of Augusta Raurica, also known as Colonia Augusta Rauricorum, lies on the southern bank of the Rhine east of the city of Basel near Augst. Augusta Raurica offers the best preserved amphitheatre north of the Alps. With its numerous workshops, such as baking bread as in Roman times, perfuming as in antiquity or the gladiator school for children, the old Roman settlement is one of the best destinations for family excursions in the region.





## Zoo Basel

The zoological garden in Basel is located directly in the city centre. The Basel Zoo was opened in 1874, making it the oldest zoo in Switzerland. Despite its small area of 11 hectares, it is also known beyond Switzerland's borders. This is also due to its success in breeding flatland gorillas, pygmy hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses and more. The zoo offers fun and entertainment with a learning effect for visitors of all ages.







## Yearly Events

### Carnival in Basel

The locals call them "die drey scheenste Däg" which means the three most beautiful days. The "Fasnacht" is a carnival like no other on earth. In 2017 it was declared an intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO because of its uniqueness. Every year on Monday after Ash Wednesday, at 04:00 a.m., the "Morgestraich" turns the city into a madhouse for 72 hours. At the carnival, socio-political themes, current events and stories are taken up and presented in a cheeky Basel style. Unique instruments, colorful lanterns and creative masks capture the eyes of those who visit. Let yourself be enchanted by the magic of Basels carnival.







## Baloise Session

The Baloise Session takes place every year at the end of October and beginning of November. The Indoor Music Festival offers performances by world-class artists. Special at the Baloise Session is the intimacy with the musicians. The concerts are characterised by the music club atmosphere created by the seating. The concept that 2-3 artists perform every evening, which stand in a specific context to each other, is certainly unique. Be it stylistically, historically or geographically, the artists are always thematically connected. Thus the spectators are told a musical story during the course of the evening.





## Autumn Fair

Children's eyes shine at the sight of the Giant Ferris Wheel on Münsterplatz, which is set up there every year for the autumn fair. But the autumn fair is not just any fair. It looks back on more than 500 years of existence and is also popular beyond the city limits. At seven places of the city you will find market stalls and rides. The impression is created that the autumn fair extends over the entire city centre. An ideal moment to stay in Basel.







## Christmas in Basel

Basel is even more worth a visit at Christmas time. Admire the radiant Christmas lights throughout the city. The picturesque Christmas market on Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz invites you to wander around. Various traders and craftsmen offer their goods in small wooden chalets. Stay at one of the many food stalls and treat yourself to a hearty sausage, a sweet waffle or a hot cup of mulled wine for a strengthening in between. Visit the town hall on the Marktplatz to enter your Christmas wishes in the large wish book and marvel at the decorated Christmas tree. Do you still need Christmas decorations for your home? Visit Johann Wanner's shop on Spalenberg and discover the handmade Christmas baubles. Johann Wanner is open all year round, not only at Christmas time. The British Royal Family, among others, will receive part of their annual Christmas decorations from this expert.





## image sources

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