

Media release | April 2019

## Discover the city of culture on the Rhine.

**Basel is situated in the heart of Europe, bordering Germany and France. A combination of authentic Swiss quality and a multicultural population make this city unmistakably cosmopolitan and innovative. Basel is often referred to as Switzerland's cultural capital. Not only because the city is home to the oldest public art collection dating from 1661, but also because Basel, with its world-famous museums and high-calibre events, has become a hotspot for the art world.**

Close to **40 museums** with world-class exhibitions – unique in Switzerland and at the top of the international league too. With their diverse themes, they offer something for all interests – and some of them have even written history. **Fondation Beyeler** is the most frequently visited art gallery in Switzerland and delights visitors with first-class exhibitions of modern and contemporary art. **Museum Tinguely** houses the best-known works of the Swiss artist Jean Tinguely, while the world's oldest public art collection in **Kunstmuseum Basel** offers visitors a chance to admire works from Holbein to Picasso as well as superb special exhibitions.

It is therefore no coincidence that **Art Basel** – the premier international art fair – is held here. Every year in June, over 300 carefully selected exhibitors from some of the world's most prominent galleries help turn this exhibition into the city's leading "temporary gallery", featuring 20th and 21st century art. In Switzerland it's held from 13 to 16 June 2019, while its sister fairs are taking place from 5 to 9 December 2019 in Miami Beach and in March 2020 in Hong Kong.

Basel also demonstrates a clear flair for **architecture and design**. The juxtaposition of classical town houses, medieval churches and modern buildings by a number of world-renowned architects promises exciting architectural contrasts. As you explore the city, you can view architectural masterpieces by luminaries such as Renzo Piano, Mario Botta and Frank O. Gehry. You may even have a chance to meet the Basel architect duo of Herzog & de Meuron, who has designed exciting projects including the Olympic stadium in Beijing, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Miami Art Museum.

For those who love to combine art with an outdoor trip, the **24 Stops – Rehberger Weg** is the ideal excursion. This trail, which is around 5 km long, links two countries, two communities and two cultural institutions – and tells countless stories along the way. It connects the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein with the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen. Guided by "24 Stops", 24 waymarkers created by the artist Tobias Rehberger, walkers can explore a uniquely diverse natural and cultural landscape.

Yet even without counting its many events, this city on the Rhine has a lot to offer. Basel locals know how to make the most of life with true *savoir-vivre*. **Fine cuisine** is just as important to them as art and culture. You can also enjoy a unique recreational activity in the summer when the official "**Rhine Swim**" takes place, an annual tradition. But you can take advantage of a cool dip any time you wish. It is only when you spend time with the locals in and around the water in this relaxed city on the Rhine that you discover for yourself why the Mediterranean seems so very near in Basel. Further Basel is a popular starting or terminal point for a **river cruise**.

Visitors to Basel can make the most of the city's diverse cultural offering with the **BaselCard**. The free personal guest card is handed to visitors when they check in and allows them to

discover the best of the city. The attractive features of the BaselCard include **free use of public transport, free surfing on the guest WiFi plus a 50 % discount on admission to Basel's museums, Basel Zoo and Theater Basel.** Discounts also apply to guided walking tours of the Old Town and river trips on the Rhine. The BaselCard turns a visit to the city of culture on the Rhine into an unforgettable experience.

**Further information:** [www.basel.com](http://www.basel.com)

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## **Exhibition Highlights 2019/2020.**

03.02. – 26.05.2019

### **The early PICASSO – Blue and Rose Period**

This exhibition, the most ambitious ever staged by the Fondation Beyeler, is devoted to the paintings and sculptures of the young Pablo Picasso from the so-called Blue and Rose periods, between 1901 and 1906. Picasso's works from this phase are some of the finest and most emotionally compelling examples of modern art. It is highly unlikely that they will be seen again in such a selection in a single place.

**Fondation Beyeler**

22.03.2019 – 19.01.2020

### **Thirst for Knowledge meets Collecting Mania**

Museums are facing challenging times: what was a must-have for ethnographic museums in the past – such as skull collections – is now a sensitive issue. The exhibition explores the motives for this collecting mania and reflects on the appropriate handling of sensitive objects.

**Museum der Kulturen Basel**

30.03. – 04.08.2019

### **The cosmos of Cubism. From Picasso to Léger**

Showing some 130 works by the main protagonists Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque as well as the wider circle of the so-called Salon Cubists, this comprehensive exhibition in Basel is the first to present the complex development of cubism.

**Kunstmuseum Basel**

30.03. – 08.09.2019

### **Balkrishna Doshi. Architecture for the People**

The Indian architect, urban planner, and teacher ranks among the most influential pioneers of modern Indian architecture. In 2018, he won the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize. The museum will present the first European retrospective of Doshi's work.

**Vitra Design Museum**

11.05. – 01.09.2019

### **Leiko Ikemura. Toward New Seas**

From the beginning, the aspect of self-analysis has played a central role in the works of Japanese-born artist Leiko Ikemura (\*1951), who has been living in Europe since 1972. Paintings, sculptures, drawings and monotypes from each of her creative phases will be on display in the basement of the Neubau.

**Kunstmuseum Basel**

26.05. – 06.10.2019

### **Rudolf Stingel**

The summer exhibition 2019 is devoted to the contemporary painter Rudolf Stingel (born in 1956 in Merano, Italy, who lives and works in New York and Merano). The exhibition will be the first museum show in Europe to present a career-spanning selection of Rudolf Stingel's major series of works.

**Fondation Beyeler**

05.06. – 22.09.2019

**Rebecca Horn. Body Fantasies**

This joint project by Museum Tinguely and Centre Pompidou-Metz presents the artist Rebecca Horn (born 1944). The presentation in Basel focuses on processes of transformation involving bodies and machines.

**Museum Tinguely**

08.06. – 29.09.2019

**William Kentridge**

The South African William Kentridge (\*1955) is an artist, filmmaker and narrator: For over three decades his work has been moving through various artistic disciplines. In addition to works from the 1980s and 1990s, the exhibition will also show lesser-known recent works.

**Kunstmuseum Basel**

22.06.2019 – 29.08.2021

**Leaps in Time. A Brief History of Basel**

From Neanderthals to pharmaceutical hub: Visitors embark on a tour of 100,000 years of Basel history, including a selection of 50 objects and 100 milestones, six film spots on recent history and an interactive installation of facts and images illustrating the city's development up to the present day.

**Historisches Museum Basel – Barfüsserkirche**

23.08.2019 – 02.08.2020

**Bima, Mr Punch, and Demon**

Puppet theatres are popular. This exhibition presents stick puppets, shadow play figures, glove puppets and marionettes from Asia and Europe. Puppeteers also use their performances to educate, criticize current conditions and show possible courses of action.

**Museum der Kulturen Basel**

22.09.2019 – 22.03.2020

**Gladiator. The true story**

Gladiator fights are among the most notorious spectacles of the ancient world. This lavishly designed exhibition challenges our established perception of gladiators and draws on new research to show the human behind the helmets, their moving stories and their function in society.

**Antikenmuseum Basel**

11.10.2019 – 19.01.2020

**Gold & Glory. Gifts for Eternity**

The Historisches Museum makes a guest appearance at the Kunstmuseum with a major exhibition on the origins of Basel Cathedral around 1000 A.D. In a world first, exquisite ivory carvings, gold treasures, and monumental bronzes are to go on show alongside the Basel Antependium from Paris. The exhibition is hosted by Kunstmuseum Basel.

**Historisches Museum Basel – Barfüsserkirche / Kunstmuseum Basel**

16.10.2019–22.03.2020

### **Superman. Friedrich Nietzsche and the Aftermath**

This exhibition marks the 175th anniversary of the birth of the famous German cultural critic and philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, presenting the man and his works and his lasting influence on our world today.

**Historisches Museum Basel – Barfüsserkirche**

23.10.2019–26.01.2020

### **Len Lye. motion composer**

Len Lye (1901–1980), a native of Christchurch, New Zealand, was one of the most important experimental filmmakers of the 1930s to 1950s. The exhibition showcases Lye in all his variety and breadth, paying special attention to the relationships between the different media.

**Museum Tinguely**

08.11.2019–03.05.2020

### **The Earth at its Limit**

We are in the midst of a new geological period: the Anthropocene, or the age of man. This exhibition goes beyond the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss and draws our attention to the profound changes to which our earth is exposed.

**Naturhistorisches Museum Basel**

## **News 2019/2020.**

**New concepts are enhancing Basel's hotel landscape this year. The latest trend is for specialized boutique hotels which target people interested in cultural activities. We are also eagerly looking forward to a new 5-star hotel.**

### **SET Hotel June 2019**

#### **Individual, modern and «customized»**

The new SET Hotel will feature even more individuality and modernity: the 21 double rooms, 11 studios and 4 apartments are modern because they are furnished with experimental design classics. And individual because guests will be able to choose their preferred level of service – either full board or private apartment, with their own bar in their room or drinks in the lobby. And a choice of VIP reception at the hotel or a no-contact solution with check-in via smartphone. «Customized» is the keyword, i.e. tailored to guests' wishes.

### **Arthouse December 2019**

#### **Young art for young (and young-at-heart) guests**

The design hotel Arthouse in the Steinenvorstadt will open its doors in December 2019. The five-storey building with 36 rooms in the medium-range price category will also feature space for young art, and urban art in particular. With its concept, the hotel is targeting young and young-at-heart guests who are interested in culture. The host is Daniel F. Lauber, a hotelier from Valais, who also runs the «Cervo» in Zermatt.

### **Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts January 2020**

#### **A new 5-star hotel for Basel**

From 2020 onwards, the new flagship hotel of Swiss hotel group **Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts** will welcome business guests as well as holidaymakers. The nineteen storey hotel was designed by the renowned Basel-based firm of architects Miller & Maranta and is currently under

construction immediately next to SBB station. It will offer a total of 264 rooms and suites, and will be stylishly furnished with timeless design classics, according to interior designer Matteo Thun.

[www.movenpick.com](http://www.movenpick.com)

**The Fondation Beyeler's Extension Project  
by Pritzker Prize winner Peter Zumthor**

The extension will be constructed on the previously private land of the Iselin-Weber Park, which adjoins the Fondation Beyeler. A new public park will thus be created in the heart of Riehen. The Fondation Beyeler will thereby create a group of museum buildings that satisfies the needs of a visitor-friendly museum. The size of the parks will be doubled.

**Fondation Beyeler**

[www.fondationbeyeler.ch](http://www.fondationbeyeler.ch)