



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 16 to 19 June 2022, while its sister fairs are taking place from 2 to 4 December 2021 in Miami Beach and in March 2022 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

(4 004 characters incl. spaces)



News und Highlights 2021/22

Hotel Openings

In Basel, new art and boutique hotels are expanding the offerings for culture fans visiting the Swiss cultural metropolis. At the end of July, the Hotel Märthof has opened its doors in the heart of the city center. The Hotel Volkshaus, designed by Herzog & de Meuron with great attention to the smallest detail, leaves nothing to be desired in terms of well-being and design. The ART HOUSE Hotel is aimed at young and young-at-heart art fans and presents urban art throughout the hotel and in the hotel rooms. The Teufelhof art and gallery hotel is still a magnet for visitors, with rooms that are always newly designed and furnished by artists.

Hotel Märthof

The four-star Hotel Märthof in the heart of Basel's Old Town is the ideal starting point for exploring the city and the place to be for anyone who likes authentic city life. The 68 rooms and junior suites feature a free minibar, Nespresso machine with a coffee and tea set, Wi-Fi, telephone, TV, desk, rainfall shower and separate toilet. The roof terrace and the hotel's own wellness area with a fitness room, steam bath and sauna are open to all hotel guests. The Bohemia restaurant and bar with boulevard terrace on the ground floor opens up a view of the hustle and bustle of the Marktplatz or, from the bar, of the lively Eisengasse. The menu ranges from a quick espresso to a delightful dinner featuring specialities from the open charcoal grill and the generous à-la-carte brunch on Saturdays and Sundays.

www.hotel-maerthof-basel.ch

Hotel Volkshaus

Volkshaus Basel is a "place to be" where the focus is on hospitality, a cosmopolitan approach, tradition and innovation. Situated at the heart of urban, vibrant Kleinbasel, Volkshaus Basel has been an institution for dining and events since 1925. Several years ago, the renowned Basel-based architects Herzog & de Meuron redesigned the Volkshaus bar and brasserie and turned it into an established fixture of Basel's culinary scene. A dedicated team delivers a personal service culture every day according to the slogan "Give happiness, experience happiness", thus providing for an unforgettable Experimente – in the restaurant, at a concert or in the hotel. Hotel guests receive free coffee/tea and water, state-of-the-art WiFi, a "flying bar" and other outstanding services.

www.volkshaus-basel.ch/hotel/

Mövenpick Hotel Basel

The Mövenpick Hotel Basel is your perfect place for an inspiring stay in Basel. Conveniently located in the city centre, this sustainably constructed hotel offers an elegant place for rest and relaxation. Interior designer Matteo Thun is responsible for the warm and cosy atmosphere in our 264 rooms and suites with modern comfort and spectacular view.

www.movenpick.com/en/europe/switzerland/basel/hotel-basel/overview/

SILO by TALENT

The SILO by TALENT is situated in the up-and-coming Erlenmatt Ost district, within walking distance of the Badischer Bahnhof railway station and Messe Basel (Exhibition Centre). The boutique hostel is located in the former City of Basel grain silo built in 1912. The three-storey building houses a restaurant, three meeting rooms and the hostel with 10 dorms and 10 double rooms. The building was renovated in 2020 by architect Harry Gugger and is managed by the TALENT association as a talent company.

www.silobasel.com

Exhibitions

4.9.2021–23.1.2022

Camille Pissarro. The Studio of Modernism

Camille Pissarro (1830–1903) ranks among the most distinguished artists of nineteenth-century France. To retrace the arc of his exceptionally diverse oeuvre is to witness the birth of modernism. And yet today's histories of art often cast Pissarro in a subsidiary role. It has been more than sixty years since a museum in Switzerland devoted a presentation to this eminent artist.

Kunstmuseum Basel

19.9.2021–2.1.2022

Close-Up

Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Lotte Laserstein, Frida Kahlo, Alice Neel, Marlene Dumas, Cindy Sherman, Elizabeth Peyton.

The autumn exhibition at the Fondation Beyeler focuses on nine women artists who all have portraits and self-portraits in common. They all represent outstanding and distinguished positions within the history of modernism from 1870 to the present day.

The exhibition focuses on the artists' particular view of their own environment, as expressed in their portraits and self-portraits. In the synopsis, it is possible to experience how the artists' view of their counterparts changed between 1870 and today.

Fondation Beyeler

23.9.2021–6.3.2022

Here We Are! Women in Design 1900 – today

Be it in furniture design, fashion design, industrial design, or interior design, women have contributed crucially to the development of modern design, both creatively and commercially. And yet books about the history of design often fail to mention them. The exhibition »Here We Are! Women in Design 1900 – Today« at the Vitra Design Museum seeks to help redress the balance. Presenting women designers from the past 120 years, it tells a new, many-voiced story of design against the background of the struggle for equal rights and recognition.

Vitra Design Museum

10.10.2021–23.1.2022

GOYA

The Fondation Beyeler is presenting one of the most important exhibitions ever devoted to Francisco de Goya (1746–1828) outside of Spain. Goya was one of the last major court artists and the first pioneer of modern art. He was both a painter of great portraits and an inventor of mysterious, personal pictorial worlds. It is precisely in these seemingly

unresolvable contradictions that we discover the magical fascination of Goya's art.

Fondation Beyeler

13.10.2021–23.1.2021

The Cost of Life. A perspective on health by Paddy Hartley

The notion of the «cost of life» is strongly related to that of risk, a central theme in medicine and research. Both concepts play key roles in the work of Paddy Hartley. His artistic comment on medical developments explores their (sometimes contradictory) consequences for humanity.

This exhibition commissioned by Roche to mark its 125th anniversary takes place in cooperation with Museum Tinguely and the Pharmacy Museum of Basel University.

Museum Tinguely

23.01.2022 – 22.5.2022

Georgia O'Keeffe

From O'Keeffe's earliest abstractions to her iconic depictions of flowers and landscapes of the American Southwest, the retrospective will offer an in-depth survey of the artist's work including rarely seen paintings from public and private collections.

Fondation Beyeler

19.02.2022 – 15.05.2022

Louise Bourgeois x Jenny Holzer. The Violence of Handwriting Across a Page.

Jenny Holzer (b. 1950), one of the leading contemporary artists of her generation, has curated an exhibition of the work of Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010), widely regarded as one of the most important and influential artists of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Holzer is internationally renowned for her exploration and subversion of public language through the use of nontraditional forms, from street signs and T-shirts to projections and LEDs.

Kunstmuseum Basel

05.06.2022 – 09.10.2022

Mondrian

Marking the 150th anniversary of the artist's birth, the Fondation Beyeler will devote an exhibition to the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian. As one of the most important artists of the avant-garde movement, Mondrian shaped the evolution of painting from figuration to abstraction.

Fondation Beyeler

11.06.2022 – 25.09.2022

Picasso – El Greco

In a large special exhibition, the Kunstmuseum illuminates the encounter of Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) with the old master El Greco (1541–1614), born Doménikos Theotokópoulos in Crete. Masterworks by both artists are juxtaposed in some forty pairings, tracing the course of one of the most fascinating dialogues in the history of art. Prestigious loans from across the globe are assembled around a core of Picasso masterworks from the museum's own collection.

Kunstmuseum Basel

22.10.2022 – 19.02.2023

Torn Modernism. Basel's Acquisitions of "Degenerate Art"

The Kunstmuseum Basel's department of classic modernism houses one of the most prestigious collections of its kind. It was in fact assembled at a comparatively late date. In the summer of 1939 — shortly before the outbreak of World War II — Georg Schmidt (1896–1966), the museum's director at the time, managed to acquire twenty-one avant-garde masterpieces all at once. The works were among those denounced in 1937 by Nazi cultural policy as "degenerate" and forcibly removed from German museums. The Third Reich's Ministry of Propaganda correctly assumed that a portion of such works would find buyers abroad and bring in foreign currency. In this way certain artworks deemed "internationally exploitable" reached the art market via various channels.

Kunstmuseum Basel

30.10.2022 – 29.01.2023

25th anniversary of the most visited art museum of Switzerland

Fondation Beyeler

Events

25.11.–23.12.2021

Christmas Market Basel

The Basel Christmas market at Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz is considered to be one of the prettiest and largest in Switzerland. And what's more:

Europe's best Christmas market will be held in Basel in 2021!

Our city on the Rhine has a very special charm in the Christmas period. The quaint Christmas market can be found on Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz, right in the centre of the city and at the heart of the festively decorated Old Town. A magnificent Christmas tree stands on the Münsterplatz, with ornaments by the well-known decorator Johann Wanner. On Claraplatz, the "Sennenhütte" opens its doors again to guests for a fun fondue dinner.

www.basel.com/en/events/christmas/christmas-market

www.europeanbestdestinations.com/christmas-markets

More news and activities

New culinary tours

FoodTour

This FoodTour will take you to places that are a little bit different. The tour, which lasts around three hours, will take you away from the usual tourist attractions and give you the opportunity to get to know "iconic Basel" – and enjoy it slowly. We offer 20 % commission for trade.

BeerTour

A highlight for all lovers of beer: take the self-guided BeerTour and sample, apart from the iconic Ueli Bier, also the craft beer Basel has to offer – in the very locations where it is brewed. We offer 20 % commission for trade.

Crossing borders

New location at the Swiss/[French train station](#):

LORA stands for high-quality, contemporary gastronomy and a conscientious approach with sustainably produced, seasonal products from the region. By having a passion for spirits and mixology, it creates the pleasure of a diverse, aesthetic experience for everyone.

www.lorabasel.ch

1 city, 3 countries:

Hiking/Biking Trail connecting Switzerland and Germany:

[RehbergerWeg](#)

The Rehberger-Weg, which is around five kilometres long, links two countries, two communities and two museums – and tells countless stories along the way. It connects the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen and the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein.

The path between the Fondation Beyeler and the Vitra Campus is naturally beautiful, but thanks to 24 special waymarks, your walk or bike tour will become an art excursion in a class of its own. Eye-catching art objects, such as cuckoo clocks, birdcages and a high perch designed by artist Tobias Rehberger, will guide you from one museum to another.

[Sandoase in summer / Sandoase in winter](#)

[Three Countries](#)

The point at which Germany, France and Switzerland converge and boats sail off towards the North Sea is also a transport hub for the supply of raw materials to Switzerland. A unique meeting place for three countries, languages and cultures.

The striking border triangle building is the result of an architectural competition to which Swiss, German and French architects were invited in 1990. On the first floor of the futuristic building are a bar, an event room and a terrace with a border-spanning view of the Rhine. In summer, the "sand oasis" on the ground floor invites guests to relax. The beach area with its sand, palm trees and cocktail bar makes for a holiday atmosphere. An ideal way to discover the border triangle is a harbour tour with the Basler Personenschiffahrt cruise company. Or explore the Rhine in and around Basel on a "Rhytaxi" water taxi.

[Three Countries Bridge/Dreiländerbrücke](#)

The world's longest pedestrian and cyclist suspension bridge links the German town of Weil am Rhein in southern Baden with Huningue in Alsace, France. The Dreiländerbrücke (Three Countries Bridge) has won prizes for its outstanding architecture.

[Three-country walking bike trail](#)

Cross over to Germany on foot or by bike and discover the delightful wine-growing villages of the Markgräflerland.

The "Dreiland" (three-country) walking and bike trail starts in Basel and crosses the Rhine from France to Germany via the Dreiländerbrücke (Passerelle des Trois Pays). The idyllic trail then follows the Altrhein to Efringen-Kirchen. The route takes you past numerous mansions and castles plus a number of beer gardens and vintner-run cafés where you can rest under the trees. You then return to Basel via Riehen.

Urban Art

Simon Berger and the glass ceiling breakers
The Big Wall, «Change of Colours»

Modern Architecture and the newly reopened **Stadtcasino Basel**, one of the top 10 concert halls in the world

The Foyer Public of the Theater Basel

Sustainable Basel tips

Novartis Campus Pavillon to open in 2022

The new Novartis building is to become an exciting venue of exchange. Its highlights include an interactive science exhibition, a café, a life science event area and opportunities for experiential learning for schoolchildren:

Roger Federer streetcar

Tennis star Roger Federer has recently started riding around the Basel region: The Basel Transport Authority (BVB) is dedicating its own streetcar to the tennis player, which Federer inaugurated in person on 22 October 2021.

The streetcar shows pictures of Federer's Grand Slam victories. Inside, passengers learn facts about the tennis star in his hometown: « "The project was very close to my heart. That's why it's a great honor for me to be able to see my own streetcar on the streets of Basel in the future."