

Basel – Switzerland’s capital of art and culture

Nestling in the heart of Europe in the three countries corner where Switzerland, Germany and France meet, Basel is a pocket-sized metropolis that combines proverbial Swiss quality with a multicultural population. This makes the city unmistakably open-minded, happy and innovative.

Only a 10-minute drive from the city centre, Basel’s EuroAirport – by the way the only bi-national airport in the world – is served by a number of international airlines. Together with neighbouring Zurich Airport, it enjoys connections to all European airports and to more than 200 intercontinental destinations. Located in the centre of Europe, Basel is a major transportation hub. Its three railway stations – the Swiss SBB, French SNCF and German Badischer Bahnhof offer excellent connections to far and wide.

Basel is widely acknowledged as Switzerland’s city of culture and for good reason, with visitors confronted by art at every turn - whether simply wandering through the streets of the Old Town or visiting one of the city’s nearly forty museums. The sheer number of museums alone indicates that Basel is not a city that lovers of art and culture can explore in a day. With their themed collections, the museums of Basel have something for every taste and many have reputations that stretch far beyond the Swiss border. And then there are the countless galleries scattered liberally throughout the city. There are also many high-class cultural events that take place throughout the year, underlining Basel’s reputation as a cultural hot-spot. Of course we should not forget that the city also has a lively theatre and music scene.

Basel is a cultural city for lovers of fine wining and dining. The city’s unique location on the border of three neighbouring countries has had a profound influence on its cuisine. But it is not only in the area of food where the inhabitants of Basel can enjoy the finer things in life - the city also has a wealth of shopping opportunities on offer! For lovers of fine wining and dining the city has long since lost its status as a hidden gem. The city has more than 20 restaurants with entries in either the Gault Milau or Michelin guides. No less astonishing is the fact that there is so much variety - a fact that is not widely advertised.

Basel is Switzerland’s leading trade fair and congress venue and hosts two extremely important international trade fairs: Art Basel, and BASELWORLD – The Watch and Jewellery Show – both of which lend the city an exclusive air every year in spring time.

Many of the events that take place in our city have a long tradition. The origins of Basel’s famous Fasnacht Carnival date back to the 14th century. Similarly, the autumn festival also has a history of more than 500 years. However, some of the younger events that take place today have already become well-established dates on the calendar.

One should not forget the many smaller events that give the city of culture its well-deserved name. Some of these have already become well-established, others are still establishing themselves. However, they all have one thing in common - the blood, sweat and tears that the promoters and event organisers put in.

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