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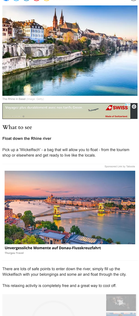
Basel travel guide: Everything you need to know about the historical Swiss town

The scenic Swiss town of Basel is less than a two-hour flight from London and shares a border with both France and Germany. The atmosphere in the city is relaxed and friendly. With plenty of places to take a quiet stroll, have a drink with a view or take an impressive art exhibition, Basel should be a go-to destination for any city break.

by Aisha Jamil
Updated: 00:01 ,Wed, 01 Jul 2020

SWISS
Fliegen Sie mit Swiss nach Basel


Unvergessliche Momente auf Donau-Flusskreuzfahrt
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What to see

Float down the Rhine river

Pick up a 'Wickelfisch' - a bag that will allow you to float - from the tourism shop or elsewhere and get ready to take the plunge.

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There are lots of safe points to enter down the river; simply fill up the Wickelfisch with your belongings and some air and float through the city.

This relaxing activity is completely free and a great way to cool off.

Fondation Beyeler

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Basel has lots of museums and galleries to learn and immerse yourself in the culture, open 365 days a year.

The Fondation Beyeler, founded by Ernst and Hildy Beyeler, is one of the most popular museums in Switzerland.

It holds a number of changing exhibitions. Visit now to see the works of Dorte Sarkaski, The Minch's Eyal exhibition and work by American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Other museums worth visiting include the Kunstmuseum Basel and Tinguely Museum.

Open 365 days a year, adult entry from 20 CHF.

Walk through the city

There is plenty to see by simply walking through Basel.

The quiet and romantic St Alban's area is also the ideal spot if looking for beautiful buildings and a peaceful stroll.

Or, visit the Old Town to see stunning architecture, including the constantly moving Tinguely Fountain.

Basel has around 300 fountains in total that are not only beautiful to look at and full of history, but many provide clean drinking water and can even be bathed in.

One fountain in the old town even offers cut-out wine at New Year for residents to 'cheers' together.

Enjoy your travel card

The city allows all guests who have booked into a hotel to get free public transport around the city for the duration of their booking, meaning there is even more available to see.

READ MORE Napa Valley: Why wine country should be on your bucket list

Basel is full of a wide place, perfect for the 48 - 1 hour - 1 hour

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Where to eat

Melt & Ella

The restaurant opened in 2017 and has already garnered a name for itself with locals. It matches delicious beers with creatives made from locally sourced produce.

A changing special menu is also available to sample the best at that moment, with beer pairings available.

This is more that just a restaurant, however, as local residents and guests can take part in a number of creative workshops.

The restaurant is located in what used to hold busy nightlife. Now more residential, Melt & Ella brings some of that life to the location.

Open Tuesday-Saturday.

Uller 7

Stop for a meal or a drink at Uller 7, with a terrace overlooking the Rhine.

Tuck in to fish and chips, fill up on a tasty salad or pick from one of the specials of the week.

Open Tuesday-Saturday.

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Volkshaus Basel

The French brasserie is in the heart of the lively Kleinbasel district and offers a range of delicious menu items.

Order meat or fish from the grill, or choose from a varied vegetarian selection.

Don't miss the hidden courtyard which was redesigned by Herzog & de Meuron. Visit for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

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Where to stay

Mövenpick Hotel Basel

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The modern Mövenpick Hotel is a great location for exploring and travelling alike.

It is a short and pleasant walk to many of the main landmarks, but if going further afield, it is only a minute from the main train station and there are many trams and buses around.

It has a modern design created by interior designer Matteo Thun and many rooms offer stunning views of the city.

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