

practical information



How to get there:

Basel has an international airport (the EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse Freiburg, from where the city is reached within 19 min. by bus no. 50 which runs four times an hour) and **three train stations**. ❶ The Swiss railway station SBB, ❷ the German station DB “Badischer Bahnhof” and the ❸ French station SNCF. Frequent, modern trains link the three stations with places in Switzerland and all parts of Europe. The Swiss main station, SBB, provides a large post office, shopping, Migros supermarket, restaurants, lockers, bicycle rental, rest rooms and foreign currency exchange. ❹ **Tourist offices** inside the Stadtcasino (at Barfüsserplatz) and inside SBB train station ❶ (061 268 68 68, valid for both tourist offices). The main post office is in the center (Freie Strasse). @ Internet station at your hostel.

www.basel.com
www.backpacker.ch



save money

All visitors who stay at a Basel hotel/hostel receive a **free Mobility Ticket** valid for the whole stay (max. 30 days). This gives you unlimited tram and bus travel without ever having to buy a ticket! Just great! Ask at reception.

budget accommodation

❶ Basel St. Alban Youth Hostel, St. Alban – Kirchrain 10, (061 272 05 72), »www.youthhostel.ch/basel. For more accommodation in Basel ask at the tourist office.

TIP!



The Basel Card costs for 24h CHF 20.– (without means of transport) or CHF 25.– (incl. means of transport), for 48h CHF 27.–, and for 72h CHF 35.–. It gives you free admission to some museums and to the zoo, free guided tours of the town, free ferry rides, reductions for concerts and discos, reductions in various shops, a 30% reduction on car rental and reductions on boat trips and taxi fares.

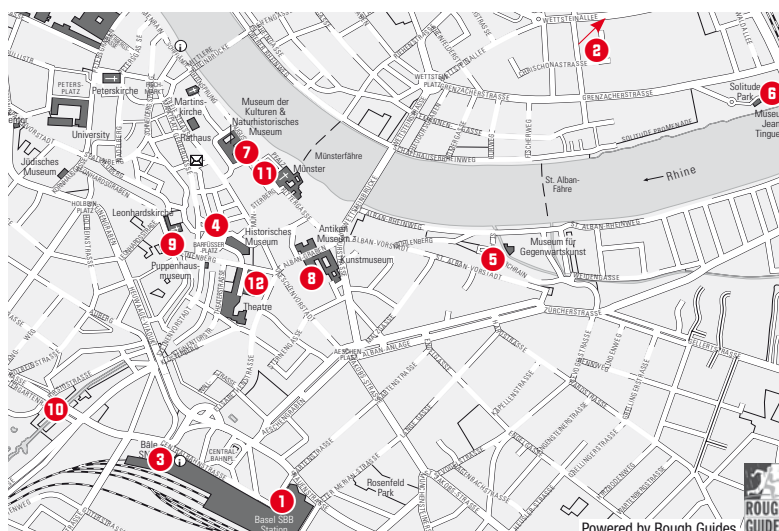


Basel's red town hall

Basel is located at the elbow of the Rhine on the borders of France and Germany. Its open-minded inhabitants give Basel its special character. The town has the oldest university in Switzerland (1460) and houses many museums and theaters. It has increasingly established itself as the architectural capital of the country. The multicultural Kleinbasel (on the right bank of the Rhine river) is the home of the alternative cultural scene. The town center is located on the left side of the river. The oldest and cheapest connections between the two banks of the Rhine river are **the ferries**. They are not only a tourist attraction but a means of public transport. Try them! From Basel you can also make excursions into the neighbouring regions of Germany and France.

highlights

❷ **The Museum Jean Tinguely**, at Paul Sacher Anlage 1 (take bus no. 31/36 to Tinguely Museum), is dedicated to the life and work of this major sculptor of iron. The building itself was designed and executed by another famous Swiss, the architect Mario Botta. This museum is unlike others: here, things rattle, squeak, crash and thump.



Open Tue–Sun 11 am–6 pm, closed on Monday. Admission CHF15.–, students CHF 10.–.

At **Foundation Beyeler** at Baselstr. 101 in Riehen (take tram no 6 to Riehen Dorf) you'll find an exceptional collection of work by modern masters! The impressive, approx. 130 meter-long building resembles a ship lying anchored alongside the road. Open daily 10 am–6 pm (Wednesday till 8 pm). Admission CHF 25.–, students CHF 12.–, **cheaper admission** (CHF 20.– /students CHF 10.–) on Mon 10 am–6 pm and on Wed from 5–8 pm.

❸ The **Natural History Museum** at Augustinergasse 2 covers virtually all aspects of the natural sciences. Walk through the dinosaur hall or look at the numerous fossils or bizarre, colorful minerals. You may observe living animals in terrariums. Tram 6/8/11/14/16 to Schifflände or tram 2/15 to Kunstmuseum. Open Tue–Sun 10 am–5 pm (closed on Monday). Admission CHF 7.–, students CHF 5.–, **free admission** every first Sunday of the month.

❹ **Kunstmuseum** (Museum of Art) at St. Alban-Graben 16 is one of the leading art houses in Switzerland. Highlights are paintings of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne and Picasso. And the museum owns the world's largest collection of works by the Holbein family. Open Tue–Sun 10 am–6 pm, admission CHF 15.–, students 5.–.

❺ The **Puppenhausmuseum** at Steinen-vorstadt 1 is the fascinating exhibition of teddy bears, dolls, toys, dollhouses and miniatures – the largest of its kind in Europe! The size and quality of the teddy bear collection make it unique in the whole world. Take tram 3/6/8/11/14/16 to Barfüsserplatz or tram 10 to Theater. Open daily 10 am–6 pm. Admission CHF 7.–, students CHF 5.–.

❻ **Basel's zoo** is laid out in a large park near the SBB station and has a varied collection including Indian rhinos and king penguins. Feeding times (Fütterungen) are fun to watch (see display by the entrance). Open daily from 8 am–6.30 pm (May–Aug) (until 6 pm only during Apr, Sep and Oct), CHF 18.– /youth under 25 CHF 12.–; **cheaper admission on Mondays** CHF 13.– /youth under 25 CHF 9.–.

❼ Basel's impressive **cathedral** (called the Münster) is the landmark of the city and worth a visit. It was built in the thirteenth century of red sandstone with a patterned roof and rebuilt following an earthquake in 1356. Open Mon–Sat 10 am–5 pm, Sun 11.30 am–5 pm, entry is **free of charge**.

❽ For many people the **Swiss Architecture Museum** (Switzerland's only museum of architecture), at Steinenberg 7, is a major reason for coming to Basel. The principal themes are: Swiss architecture from the Classical Modern period, international contemporary architecture, and the relation-



events

April 30th – May 13th	Jazz Festival Basel (at different places)
May 16th	Jovanotti at St. Jakobhalle
May 21st – 24th	Young Stage – International Circus Festival at Rosentalanlage
June 10th – 22nd	Circus “Knie” at Rosentalanlage
June 24th	Sonisphere Festival at St. Jakobpark (with Iron Maiden, Alice Cooper, Slipknot and others)
July 1st	Sommerblues Basel. Blues festival in Kleinbasel (5 open-air stages)
July 26th – Aug 13th	S’isch im Fluss (different concerts every evening on the raft at Rheinbrücke)
July 31st	Swiss National Day celebration, party in the city center with huge fireworks
Aug 1st	Swiss National Day
Aug 4th – 28th	Open-air cinema at Münsterplatz
Aug 16th	Annual Rhine swimming event, already a tradition for Baslers and non-Baslers
Oct 21st – Nov 13th	Avo Session Basel (some of the most famous artists from the genres of pop, soul, rock, Latin, blues and R&B at Messe Basel)
Oct 29th – Nov 13th	Autumn fair (biggest and oldest kermis market in Switzerland)
Oct 29th – Nov 6th	Swiss Indoors. World’s best tennis (incl. Roger Federer) at St. Jakobshalle

Markets

Daily (except Sun)	City market (food, flowers, handicraft and more) at Marktplatz
Saturdays	Flea markets at Petersplatz
2nd & 4th	Flea market at Barfüsserplatz
Wed monthly	

ship between architecture and art. Open Tue, Wed & Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Thu 11 am – 8.30 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am – 5 pm (closed on Mon); CHF 10.– / students CHF 6.–.

The **Schaulager** at Ruchfeldstr. 19 in Münchenstein (approx. 10 minutes by tram no. 11 from the Swiss railway station SBB, direction Aesch until “Schaulager” stop) is an amazing venue (designed by the leading architects Herzog & De Meuron) and Basel’s newest, highly-regarded cultural institution (intended primarily for specialists as restorers, curators, researchers, teachers and students). But it’s also open to the public for occasional exhibitions and special events: in 2011 from March until August

28th, Tue, Wed & Fri 10 am – 6 pm, Thu 10 am – 7 pm, Sat 1 – 5 pm and Sun 10 am – 5 pm (closed on Mon); CHF 10.– / students CHF 8.–.

If you’re halfway interested in design, you’ll love the **Vitra Design Museum**, one of the world’s leading museums for industrial furniture design and architecture. You’ll find the Vitra Design Museum across the border in Germany, 10 km north of Basel in the small town of Weil-Am-Rhein (at Charles-Eames-Strasse 1). Take bus no. 55 from Claraplatz directly to Vitra (**passport needed!**). Open Mon – Sun 10 am – 6 pm; admission Euro 8.– / student Euro 6.50.

The **Roman Town of Augusta Raurica**. A visit to this largest open-air archaeologi-

entertainment, fun & parties

- **Das Schiff** on Westquaistrasse 19 is a ship at dock (with a sandy beach-like deck and palm trees) with an excellent restaurant, disco and chill out music till late!
- A place with events ranging from live music to DJs to theatre is **Kaserne** at Klybeckstrasse 1b.
- **Brauerei Fischerstube**, at Rheingasse 45, brews its own beer.
- **Sky Lounge** is Basel’s highest bar (31st floor), with the most spectacular toilets (a real view from the 30th floor!), at Hotel Ramada at Messeplatz.
- A good place to meet people is **Unternehmen Mitte** at Gerbergasse 30.
- **Cargo Kultur Bar**, at St. Johannis-Rheinweg 46, is a nice bar, Djs on Fri & Sat.
- **Elle et Lui**, at Rebgasse 39, and **Cupido Bar and Lounge** (next to Elle et Lui at Rebgasse 43) are Basel’s best gay bars.
- A nice anarchic place is **Hirscheneck**, at Lindenberg 23 (also close to Elle et Lui), with live music or disco (new punk) most Fri and Sat. Brunch every Sun, and you don’t need to eat for the rest of the day!
- **Kuppel**, at Binnergerstrasse 14, is like a huge igloo. Different style of music each night.
- **Blinde Kuh**, at Dornacherstrasse 192, offers dining in utter darkness. It’s a special experience indeed to sit and dine in this completely dark restaurant (the people serving you here are blind). May book ahead.
- Very good Thai food at very reasonable prices to be had at **mük dam** restaurant and take-away (Dornacherstrasse 220).
- **Atlantis**, at Klosterberg 13, is a music temple. Club nights with DJs, live concerts, food and more.

cal museum in north-west Switzerland is one of the most attractive outings around Basel. The extremely interesting open-air complex of The Roman Town of Augusta Raurica offers over 20 places of interest, including the best preserved antique theatre north of the Alps, a unique replica of a “Roman house” and the “Roman” farm animal park. No wonder the archaeological site is the most visited tourist attraction in the Baselland Canton today, and enjoys an international reputation.

How to get there: Fast train from Basel to Kaiseraugst: 10 minute walk to the Roman Museum and the central points of interest; or bus number 70 from Basel-Aeschenvorstadt

to the “August” stop, from there a 10-minute walk. Or by boat from Basel-Schifflande to “August” or “Kaiseraugst” (summer only, call 061 639 95 07); from there a 15-minute walk to the Roman Museum (journey time from Basel: 1½ hours). Opening hours: outdoor exhibitions and the farm animal park are open daily 10 am – 5 pm; the Roman Museum open Tue – Sun 10 am – 5 pm and Monday 1 pm – 5 pm. You can visit most of the sights of August Raurica **free of charge**. Entry to the Roman Museum and the Roman House costs CHF 7.–, students CHF 5.–.



Music raft “S’isch im Fluss” with view of Greater Basel