Welcome to Basel-Stadt

People who move to a new place must first reorient themselves, because nothing is the way it used to be. This begins with the most mundane, everyday considerations: where does the rubbish go? But soon somewhat more difficult questions emerge. Where do I have to register my car? Where will my child go to school? And what am I going to do in my free time when I hardly know anyone in my new home?

This brochure is meant to help you to settle down in your new place of residence. But we not only want you to know what forms you have to fill out; we want you to have a sense of well-being in Basel and soon no longer feel like a newcomer, but rather as a part of this city canton.

On the following pages you will find some information and addresses that are intended to help you settle into Basel.
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Everyday life

Everyday life in a new place of residence quickly turns into an obstacle course. Countless things must be taken care of, deadlines have to be met, there are forms to fill out, and administrative offices must be found. The canton of Basel-Stadt has a modern administration at its disposal which fosters uncomplicated dealings with the inhabitants. The central institution for this contact is the Customer Centre of the Residential Registration Office, with a broad range of services on offer.

CUSTOMER CENTRE

The Customer Centre of the Residential Registration Office (Kundenzentrum Spiegelhof) is also specifically the first contact point for people who are moving to Basel and must deal with their residency status in the canton. It records the data concerning all Swiss and foreign inhabitants. This includes, for example, changes in marital status, address changes, name changes, births and deaths.

The Customer Centre gives advice to newcomers, issues certificates and confirmations and – for Swiss nationals – passports and identity cards, and handles lost property. In addition information and forms from other cantonal departments can be obtained here, as well as a number of motor vehicle inspection products. The Customer Centre sells various publications of the canton, season tickets to the public swimming pools, the museum pass and communal day tickets.

PERMITS

Personal advice is offered at the contact points in the Customer Centre of the Residential Registration Office, at the motor vehicle inspection department and at the building and traffic department. In some cases permits from other offices can also be applied for there.

KEEPING ANIMALS

As a rule keeping pets does not require a permit in the canton of Basel-Stadt (exception: potentially dangerous dogs). However, when crossing the border, vaccination rules and/or special import regulations apply to many animals. Various regulations concerning keeping them must also be complied with. And all animals must be accommodated and cared for in a manner appropriate to their species. In addition dogs must be registered or re-registered for taxation with the veterinary office and also with AMICUS, and must carry a microchip.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Daily tasks include, for example, the disposal of waste materials. In the canton of Basel-Stadt household rubbish – which by the way is called “Hauskehrich” in Switzerland – is collected twice a week. What districts are served on what days of the week is noted on the waste disposal calendar, which is supplied twice a year or can be obtained in the Customer Centre of the Residential Registration Office and at police stations. For your “Hauskehrich” you must use the official rubbish bags of the canton,
Everyday life

ADMINISTRATION AND AUTHORITIES
- www.bs.ch
- www.stadtparl.bs.ch
- www.stadtbibliothek.bs.ch
- Customer Centre of the Residential Registration Office (Kundenzentrum Individuelement), Marktplatz 8, Postfach, 4001 Basel
  Tel. 061 267 70 06, www.zivofficial.ch
  Opening hours: Monday and Tuesday from 11.00 to 13.00.
  Monday, Thursday, Friday from 14.00 to 16.00.
  Opening hours Certification office: Monday, Tuesday, Friday from 09.00 to 12.00, Wednesday from 09.00 to 13.00.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS
- www.steuerverwaltung.bs.ch
- www.bs.ch/steuern

EDUCATION
- www.bs.ch/bildung
- www.elschule.ch

EMERGENCY
- www.gesundheitsamt.ch
- Tel. 117, 141 (emergency service)
- Tel. 118 (information on keeping animals and regulations)
- Tigers: emergency service
  061 385 32 24, www.tiger.ch
  Tel. 141/385 32 24

LEGAL ADVICE
- www.gesetzessammlung.bs.ch
- www.gesetzestexte.bs.ch
- www.gesetzesinformationen.bs.ch

LEGAL ADVICE
- Legal advice civil law Basel City
  www.gefenabsammlung.bs.ch

LEGAL ADVICE
- Inheritance
  www.elschule.ch

LEGAL ADVICE
- Legal Information of the Chamber of Advocates
  www.bvsa.ch

LEGAL ADVICE
- Office Economy and Labour
  www.bvstbs.ch

MEN AND WOMEN
- Department of Equal Opportunities for Men and Women
  www.shaworb.de

MEN AND WOMEN
- Family
  www.shaworb.de

REVIEWS
- Restaurants in Basel and its surroundings enjoy a good reputation. They are varied and offer something for every taste; the choice ranges from the cozy neighbourhood pub to the gourmet temple with stars and an award-winning chef. And as far as the type of cuisine is concerned, the Basel region knows no borders: you can choose between regional dishes and gastronomic delicacies from all over the world.

RADIO AND TV
- Radio and TV are subject to licence fees in Switzerland. Billag has been tasked by the Confederation with collecting the licence fees for radio and TV. The licence fees are paid per household, not per device. Families, flat-sharing communities or couples who live in the same household pay the fees only once.

RENTED HOUSING
- If you live in a rental house or apartment, your landlord is the contact person for most matters. In contrast with many other countries, in Switzerland the kitchens in rental accommodations are part of the basic equipment, and a common laundry is available to the tenants.

SHOPPING
- In Basel there are countless possibilities for shopping. Most businesses are open in the evening during the week until 6.30 pm, some until 8 pm. In the inner city most businesses close on Saturday at 5 pm or 6 pm, and in some outer districts somewhat earlier. On Sundays and public holidays you can shop in the railway stations, at many petrol stations and in a few selected grocery shops located over the whole city. If you want to shop across the border in the neighbouring countries, you must comply with the appropriate customs regulations, since Switzerland does not belong to the European Union and certain goods are subject to customs duties when imported.

EATING OUT
- Restaurants in Basel and its surroundings enjoy a good reputation. They are varied and offer something for every taste; the choice ranges from the cozy neighbourhood pub to the gourmet temple with stars and an award-winning chef. And as far as the type of cuisine is concerned, the Basel region knows no borders: you can choose between regional dishes and gastronomic delicacies from all over the world.
Children and families

In Basel the future already plays an important role today. Child- and family-friendly policies are already self-evident, following a long tradition. The city of Basel has gained the “child-friendly community” certificate from UNICEF. Basel is also a leading example when it comes to the care of children during pre-school years. Its Constitution guarantees the right to day care.

CHILD CARE

In addition to around 170 kindergartens, parents can choose between a large number of care possibilities such as day nurseries and day care centres. Thanks to the many possibilities on offer, parents are supported and the children can remain in their familiar surroundings.

LEISURE

In Basel families and children also get their money’s worth in their free time. Numerous local recreation areas invite people to while away the time. In the summer the public swimming pools in Basel and in the surrounding area are a popular meeting place for young and old; on the other hand in the winter people meet in Basel at one of the two ice rinks for a turn on the ice. The GGG City Library of Basel offers a network consisting of a main site and branches in the various local districts where, among other things, books for children and youth, games and videos can be borrowed.

The local meeting points are places to get together and make contacts for the inhabitants of the district and especially for young families. Here you can interact with others and also obtain valuable information as well as support for your everyday life. Basel offers a wide variety of leisure activities for children and young people, ranging from supervised playgrounds and games and handicrafts for children to youth meeting points in the various local districts. The city of Basel also has many playgrounds, for example in the Schützenmat Park and at the Cämmatt, as well as four “Robi-Spielplätze” – supervised adventure playgrounds that are operated by Robi-Spiel-Aktion.

ADVICE / COUNSELLING

In the event of problems and emergency situations people seeking help in Basel-Stadt have at their disposal a dense network of institutions to advise families, parents and children and to indicate approaches to solutions.

Examples of these services include: the children and youth service, the centre for early intervention, parent counselling, the family, couple and educational counselling or BFAM – the counselling centre for single parents.
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
- www.familienliitz.bs.ch
- www.unifam.com
- www.maiuru.ch
- Department of Youth and Family Support
  Lumentorstrasse 1, 4001 Basel
  Tel. 061 267 30 01, www.fb.bs.ch
- Children and Youth Service
  Leondertorstrasse 45, 4031 Basel
  Tel. 061 267 45 55, www.vja.bs.ch
- Centre for Early Intervention
  Die-Vorle-Strasse 5, 4010 Basel
  Tel. 061 267 05 01, www.ofs.bs.ch
- Department of Education
  Lumentorstrasse 1, 4001 Basel
  Tel. 061 267 84 02, www.ed.bs.ch
- Children’s Office
  Auf d’Lyis 20, 4051 Basel
  Tel. 061 260 92 92, www.familea.ch
- Rebi-Spielf-Aktiven
  Quartierstrasse 187, 4035 Basel
  Tel. 061 269 60 00, www.rebispiel-aktiven.ch

FAMILY AND EDUCATION
- www.familienliitz.bs.ch
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- Rebi-Spielf-Aktiven
- Quartierstrasse 187, 4035 Basel
- Tel. 061 269 60 00, www.rebispiel-aktiven.ch

Here you also find information on the branches in the city districts.

GUG City Libraries
Caring Office, Im Grünenthal 10, 4057 Basel
Tel. 061 261 11 11
www.chlbi.ch/lith-kleinkasern.ch

Here you also find information on the branches in the city districts.

DISTRICTS
- Neighboughood Work
  Präsidialdepartement
  Kontaktstelle für Quartierarbeit
  Marktplatz 20a, Postfach, 4031 Basel
  Tel. 061 267 45 40, www.quartierarbeit.bs.ch
- Offices and District Coordination
  www.stadtteilsekretariate.bs.ch
- Stadtteilsekretariat Kleinbasel
  Küblisstrasse 61, 4027 Basel
  Tel. 061 681 84 44, nabil@vierbasi.ch
- Stadtteilsekretariat Kleinbasel-West
  (Küblisstrasse 12, 4026 Basel
  Tel. 061 331 13 60, info@baselbs.ch
- Quartierkoordination
  Gundeldingen
  Gundeldingengasse 21c, 4053 Basel
  Tel. 061 351 08 (83), info@gundeli-koordination.ch

Community Centres
- www.quartierzentrumbasel.ch
- Treffpunkt Breite
  Zürcherstrasse 120, 4055 Basel
  Tel. 061 237 24 68, breite@qtp-basel.ch
- Quartierzentrum BURG
  Burgweg 17, 4035 Basel
  Tel. 061 261 01 84, burg@qtp-basel.ch
- Quartierzentrum LoLa
  Löhringstrasse 65, 4046 Basel
  Tel. 061 321 48 26, sola@qtp-basel.ch
- Kontaktstelle für Eltern und Kinder
  St. Johann
  Löhringstrasse 63, 4046 Basel
  Tel. 061 231 06 07
- Kontaktstelle elfame@jetp-basel.ch
- Fächereck Centrum Hirzenbrunnen
  Almenstrasse 36, 4058 Basel
  Tel. 061 601 20 21, elch@jetp-basel.ch
- quartierzentrum Hirzenbrunnen
  Im Neuserauer 15, 4046 Basel
  Tel. 061 50 30, irzbrunnen@jetp-basel.ch
- FAZ Familienzentrum Gundeli
  Domannenstrasse 139, 4051 Basel
  Tel. 061 333 11 33, fa@jetp-basel.ch
- Kasernentrifl
  Kasernenstrasse 23, 4058 Basel
  Tel. 061 237 24 68, kasernenfamilie@jetp-basel.ch
- Kontaktstelle für Eltern und Kinder
  St. Johann
  Löhringstrasse 63, 4046 Basel
  Tel. 061 231 06 07, kasernenzentrum@jetp-basel.ch
- QuBa Quartierzentrum Bachletten
  Bachlettenstrasse 2, 4034 Basel
  Tel. 061 271 20 60, qb@qtp-basel.ch
- Kontaktstelle für Eltern und Kinder
  St. Johann
  Löhringstrasse 63, 4046 Basel
  Tel. 061 231 06 07, qb@qtp-basel.ch
- Kontaktstelle für Eltern und Kinder
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- Tel. 061 321 06 07, kontaktstelle-stjohann@qtp-basel.ch
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- Tel. 061 321 06 07, kontaktstelle-stjohann@qtp-basel.ch
Education

The canton of Basel-Stadt has a modern, high-quality school system that meets the diverse needs of the children and young people living here. In Switzerland education and training are in principle the responsibility of the cantons. The school systems are currently harmonized throughout Switzerland and also bi-cantonly in both cantons of Basel.

EARLY PROMOTION OF GERMAN

Children who do not speak any or hardly any German attend a playgroup or another similar institution for at least two half days per week in the year before they start kindergarten. There they learn how to speak German through games and playing. This early promotion of German has been mandatory in Basel since 2013.

KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

Compulsory schooling begins with kindergarten, which lasts for two years. Children go to kindergarten starting in their fifth year. After that they attend primary school for six years. Here children learn French starting in the third year and English starting in the fifth year. After primary school all pupils attend the three-year secondary school. Depending upon their performance in school the children are divided into three levels: A (general requirements), E (expanded requirements) and P (high requirements).

Children and Families

The University of Basel is the oldest university in Switzerland. It was founded in 1460 and today it is a modern university located in the city centre with

- NQV Breite-Lehenmatt
  Stephan Knut
  4035 Basel
  Tel. 079 834 05 24, www.nqv-b-l.ch

- NQV Bruderholz
  Cornelia Jakut
  Anlauerstrasse 7, 4035 Basel
  Tel. 061 381 24 05, www.bruderholz.org

- NQV Gundeldingen
  Fausta Mart
  Pfaffenengasse 82, 4035 Basel
  Tel. 079 534 84 13

- NQV Hirsbrunnen
  Karola Köhler-Fischer
  Geisauhofstrasse 419, 4035 Basel
  Tel. 061 301 20 86

- OV Läikie in der Innenstadt
  Daniel Zuck
  Imbergässlein 31, 4051 Basel
  www.ov-innenstadt.ch

- NQV Kamenfeld
  Monika Hemla
  Meierweg 71, 4059 Reihen
  Tel. 061 381 38 05

- NQV Neubad
  Christof Wüller
  Postfach, 4070 Basel
  Tel. 061 302 83 30, www.nqv-neubad.ch

- Quartier Verein Niederholz
  Kellnerweg 4, 4125 Reihen
  www.qvn-reihen.ch

- NQV Oberkern und Kleinbasel
  Postfach, 4031 Basel
  www.nqvkbs.net

- Dorfverein Pro Kleinhüningen
  www.dorfverein-kleinhueningen.ch

- NQV Riehen Nord QUARINO
  Ernst G. Stalder
  Auf der Bischoffhöhe 88, 4125 Reihen
  Tel. 061 641 30 76, www.quarino.ch

- NQV Spalen-Gotthelf
  www.spalen-gotthelf.ch

- NQV St. Alban-Gellert
  Beata Wackernagel
  Postfach 57, 4020 Basel
  Tel. 061 311 16 07, www.nqv-alban-gellert.ch

- NQV St. Johann
  Nico Baier
  St. Johannis-Park 1, 4056 Basel
  Tel. 076 426 50 45, www.nqv-stjohann.org

- NQV Unteres Kleinbasel
  Christian Vontobel
  Müllerherrenstrasse 77, 4057 Basel
  qks@bluewin.ch
an attractive range of research, teaching and services. As a traditional comprehensive university it covers almost all fields of study and includes seven faculties.

By European standards the University of Basel is a rather small university. It counts around 13,000 students, 2,700 of them doctoral candidates, and has around 370 professors and 1,500 lecturers. They provide an excellent education and foster independent thinking and responsible action among the students. The proportion of female students amounts to 55 per cent and more than a fifth of the students are from abroad. The University of Basel since 1996 has enjoyed the status of an autonomous university – held today by the cantons of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft. In Switzerland all university students pay student fees; in Basel these amount to 850 francs per semester.

The University of Basel offers a rich and diversified student life. In addition to the range of university sports and the festivals and parties that take place regularly, there are numerous associations and student bodies. The official representation of the students at the University of Basel is the “skula”. This works not only for student participation, but also promotes student initiatives and organises its own cultural offerings.

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS NORTHWESTERN SWITZERLAND

In addition to the university, in the field of university-level education the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) provides a high-quality range of educational programmes. The FHNW is a regionally anchored educational institution with a national and international reputation. It includes nine schools, which cover the subjects of Engineering, Architecture and Civil Engineering, Business, Life Sciences, Art and Design, Social Work, Teacher Education, Psychology and Music in teaching and research.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Those who don’t want to make use of the free public schools can also take advantage of the diverse private educational institutions in the Basel region. These include the English-, French- or Italian-speaking international schools in Basel and the surrounding area. At individual private schools a leaving certificate recognised throughout Switzerland can also be provided.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Basel also offers a wide choice in the area of further education: Under the designation “Advanced Studies” the University of Basel for example organises academic further education courses to be completed while working. The University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) provides a high-quality range of educational programmes. The FHNW offers a diversified range of further education possibilities in all its subject areas. The adult education centre of both Basel cantons offers numerous events in general further education, language courses and post-literacy courses for adults. And for all people who have reached the age of 59, the “SeniorenUni” organises events in various fields of knowledge of the University of Basel.

Adults who had no opportunity in their youth to attend a secondary school can obtain a canton school-leaving certificate in the matriculation courses for adults (Maturitätskurse für Erwachsene [MfB]), which enables access to some higher-education institutions in the region. In addition a variety of private schools offer language, computer and business courses.
Culture

Where culture is concerned, Basel has more to offer than cities of comparable size. This has to do with the city’s history, its location and the cosmopolitanism of the city and its inhabitants.

MUSEUMS

The reputation of the Basel museums has made the city known worldwide. The Basel Art Museum has the largest and most significant publicly accessible art collection in Switzerland. With its focal points of paintings and drawings by artists of the Upper Rhine from 1400 to 1600 as well as art of the 19th to 21st century, the Art Museum is among the leading museums in the world. But this is not the only museum known far beyond the borders of the country. Other magnets for the public are the Foundation Beyeler in Riehen with its spectacular rotating exhibitions, the Museum of Antiquities, the Tinguely Museum and the Museum of Cultures. One of Basel’s specialties is that the five public museums cooperate closely with the numerous private museums, and have issued a common Upper Rhine Museum Pass for the museums of the three-countries area. With this pass you have unlimited entry to the permanent and special exhibitions of around 320 museums, castles and gardens in Germany, France (Alsace) and north-western Switzerland, and can take up to five children under the age of 18 free of charge.

THEATRE

In addition to the numerous museums, the Basel Theatre is a pillar of the cultural city of Basel. It is run as a three-section operation with three stages at two sites, and offers numerous operas, plays and ballet productions annually. The Basel Theatre has been honoured several times as one of the best stages in the German-speaking area. Numerous small and tiny stages complete the theatre and dance offerings in Basel.

Among the many small theatres of the region there are several that specialise in theatre productions for children and youth. English-speaking performances take place regularly in Basel, and in the French Saint-Louis, the Théâtre La Coupole Saint-Louis is situated directly in front of the city gates. A central municipal location for the free contemporary theatre, dance and performance scene as well as for concerts in the area of popular music is the Basel Kaserne (the old barracks). With its broad range the Kaserne promotes exchanges between the artists, the public and other art centres.

MUSIC

The classical concerts of the City Casino are being held in the Musical Theater Basel whilst the renovation work is being carried out. This features not only outstanding local ensembles like the Basel Symphony Orchestra, the Basel Sinfonietta and the Basel Chamber Orchestra, but also world-famous international orchestras and soloists hold guest performances. In addition numerous classical concerts such as those performed by the baroque orchestra and vocal ensemble La Cetra are being staged in churches throughout the city.
In Basel film fans also get their money’s worth. The fact that films in the cinema are shown in the original but with subtitles is considered a special feature of Switzerland. Films for children and young people can, however, also be seen in a dubbed version. The choice ranges from the great multiplex cinema to the small city cinema.

**ARCHITECTURE**

The cityscape of Basel with its numerous contrasts and sights also belongs to the culture of the city. On the one hand, Basel has very well preserved old city parts with buildings from the 13th and 14th centuries. Above all the cathedral hill, the suburb of St. Alban and the streets between the market square and Petersplatz deserve a mention. Besides that Basel offers first-class modern architecture in a density offered by hardly any other European city: The two architectural firms Herzog & de Meuron and Diener & Diener not only both have their headquarters in Basel, but have shaped the cityscape with numerous buildings. Other architects with worldwide ranking, like Mario Botta, Frank Gehry and Renzo Piano, are also present in Basel. They have all contributed to the fact that anyone on the move in Basel repeatedly encounters fascinating buildings. It is hardly astonishing, therefore, that the Swiss Museum of Architecture is also located in Basel.

There are several jazz clubs in Basel, such as “the bird’s eye jazz club” and there is also a series of festivals featuring all styles, from Dixie to Swing and avant-garde jazz. In the areas of Rock, Hip-Hop, House and other contemporary musical trends, several pubs in Basel and in the local area provide a varied and lively programme. Furthermore, at the Musical Theatre Basel, one of the most modern stages in Europe, major musical events regularly take place. The cultural festival “Im Fluss” (in the river), which is performed on a raft in the Rhine in the summer, represents a special feature.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

The cityscape of Basel with its numerous contrasts and sights also belongs to the culture of the city. On the one hand, Basel has very well preserved old city parts with buildings from the 13th and 14th centuries. Above all the cathedral hill, the suburb of St. Alban and the streets between the market square and Petersplatz deserve a mention. Besides that Basel offers first-class modern architecture in a density offered by hardly any other European city: The two architectural firms Herzog & de Meuron and Diener & Diener not only both have their headquarters in Basel, but have shaped the cityscape with numerous buildings. Other architects with worldwide ranking, like Mario Botta, Frank Gehry and Renzo Piano, are also present in Basel. They have all contributed to the fact that anyone on the move in Basel repeatedly encounters fascinating buildings. It is hardly astonishing, therefore, that the Swiss Museum of Architecture is also located in Basel.

There are several jazz clubs in Basel, such as “the bird’s eye jazz club” and there is also a series of festivals featuring all styles, from Dixie to Swing and avant-garde jazz. In the areas of Rock, Hip-Hop, House and other contemporary musical trends, several pubs in Basel and in the local area provide a varied and lively programme. Furthermore, at the Musical Theatre Basel, one of the most modern stages in Europe, major musical events regularly take place. The cultural festival “Im Fluss” (in the river), which is performed on a raft in the Rhine in the summer, represents a special feature.
For three days once a year there’s a very special atmosphere in Basel: it’s the three days of the Basel Fasnacht (Carnival), always in the week following Ash Wednesday.

**MORGESTRAICH**
The prelude to the “drei schönschte Dääg” (“the three best days”) comes in the form of the so-called “Morgestraich” at 4 in the morning on the Monday. Then all the city centre lights go out and Queen Fasnacht picks up the torch in the city till Thursday. A traditional and archaic-seeming tapestry of sound from innumerable piccolos and drums pervades the town. With their wild and brightly coloured costumes the merry Fasnacht crowd roams through the narrow lanes of the old town until dusk begins to fall. The only sources of light are powerful hand-painted lanterns.

**CORTÊGE**
On the Monday afternoon (and on Wednesday too) there is the great procession, the “Cortège”, when hundreds of cliques, “Guggemusiken” and decorated floats pass through the streets of outer and inner Basel. In Basel “Guggemusiken” mean wind and percussion groups, which can be described as a mix between Big Bands and strange noise machines.

**FASNACHT TUESDAY**
Tuesday traditionally belongs to the children, who make their way through the town and suburbs in small groups (“Schissdögguﬁn”). In the evening on Münsterplatz the over two hundred lanterns that had made their grand entrance at the Morgestraich can be admired in peace. At the same time the Panoramastrasse can be admired in peace. At the same time the Panoramastrasse can be admired in peace. At the same time the tapestry of sound from innumerable piccolos and drums pervades the town. With their wild and brightly coloured costumes the merry Fasnacht crowd roams through the narrow lanes of the old town until dusk begins to fall. The only sources of light are powerful hand-painted lanterns.

**SCHNITZELBÄNGG**
There is intense activity in the pubs over these three days. In so-called “Schnitzelbängg” – humorous, and sometimes sarcastic mocking verses – in which the political and social events of the past months are scoffed at and commented on.

**ORIGIN**
Eymologically the Basel Fasnacht can be traced back to the Lent fasting period, and the date is determined by the Christian feast days. The Basel Fasnacht always takes place six weeks before Easter, thus a week later than in the Catholic German-speaking area, and the afternoons of the Fasnacht always take place six weeks before Easter, thus a week later
Green areas

The canton of Basel-Stadt is indeed a city canton, but it offers in and around the town a large number of green spaces. In total the canton possesses about 250 hectares of public green areas and open spaces, corresponding to just seven per cent of the total cantonal territory. Specifically there are over 50 parks and green spaces. Along the streets and in the parks, 26,000 trees provide clean air, a green cityscape and a high quality of life.

LEISURE GARDENS

Those who don’t have a garden can rent a leisure garden. The canton rents out 5500 leisure gardens around the city.

RECREATION ZONES

One can also find recreation at the “Birsköpfli” on the edge of the city, where the little river Birs flows into the Rhine. Or a walk along the Wiese, another tributary of the Rhine. In the surrounding woods there are numerous open hearths for evening barbecues. In the vicinity of the Spalentor in the city centre the University of Basel has a botanical garden with a Sukkulentenhaus (succulents greenhouse) and the Viktoriahaus dating from 1898. In the “Merian Gärten” in front of the city gates, visitors can enjoy an English landscape park, a medicinal plant garden and the rhododendron valley. The Regio-Grüngürtel (regional green belt) around Basel is the main green artery for leisure and recreation. It is also the habitat of several thousand animal and plant types, including some very rare and threatened species.

ZOO AND ANIMAL PARK

Basel’s zoological garden – “dr Zolli”, as it is called here – is Switzerland’s oldest animal park. It was founded in 1874, and today the “Zolli” displays a blend of modern, animal-friendly facilities with magnificent old buildings in a green oasis in the immediate proximity of the train station. In the recreation area of the same name is the Lange Erlen animal park. This is smaller than the zoo and features primarily domestic animals.

SHIP AND FERRY

Boat trips on the Rhine are also very popular. The Basel passenger boat company offers regular and special passenger trips throughout the year both near and beyond the city.

And if you just wish to cross the Rhine to the other bank, then you should try one of the four ferries in Basel. These noiseless craft use the currents of the Rhine to reach the other bank without additional power. And besides, when one doesn’t quite believe something, then one says in Basel: “Vesseli doch das em Fäärimaa!” – Just tell that to the ferryman!

CARNIVAL
• www.fasnacht.ch
The Basel Carnival takes place:
2017: 9 to 11 March
2018: 19 to 21 February
2019: 11 to 13 March
• Fasnachts-Comité
Blumenrain 16, 4021 Basel
Tel. 061 261 25 75, www.fasnachts-comite.ch
• Basel Tourismus
Hotel & Tourisminformation
Office: Aachener vorstadt 36, 4010 Basel
Tel. 061 268 68 68, www.basel.com
and in the
Stadt-Casino am Barfüsserplatz, 4051 Basel
and in the
Bahnhof SBB

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Sport

Basel is not only home to professional sports. Sport has its place in all forms and facets of city life. Enthusiasts can choose from a very wide range of individual and team sports, as there are excellent facilities for both amateur and professional sporting activities. A multitude of fitness offerings complete the traditional sports opportunities in Basel.

POPULAR SPORT

The possibilities for popular sport are virtually unlimited. About 350 sports clubs are active in Basel, the list of sports on offer is long and includes numerous water, ball, combat and track sports. And every year there is also the car-free movement and experience day “slowUp” in the Basel region.

Those who prefer to keep fit on an individual basis can enjoy the city and its surroundings by cycling, skating, in-line skating, playing golf, riding or paragliding. There’s also a wide choice indoors, from aquajogging to yoga.

The public sports facilities in Basel are popular public and family meeting points, and with the top-class sports complex at St. Jakob, Basel-Stadt is very well equipped for high sporting performances.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

In Basel youth encouragement and development takes pride of place in sport. Many clubs run their own junior sections. Privately organised sport is supported by the public sports office, which is active with targeted development programmes in all areas of sport and for all age categories, so that children and young people can quench their thirst for activity.

BASEL AS A SPORTS CITY

Basel’s reputation as a sporting city is based on clubs such as the Basel Football Club (FCB), which has been Swiss champion many times and has also made it to the Champions League. Its home games draw crowds averaging over 25,000 in the St. Jakob-Park (“Joggeli”). Basel also hosts on an annual basis top-class sporting events such as the international tennis tournament Swiss Indoors, the Badminton Swiss Open or the Longines CSI. To date the high point for Basel as a sporting city was the European Football Championship 2008 which kicked off in Basel.
Health

The canton of Basel-Stadt guarantees the highest quality of medical care for all its inhabitants due to a differentiated health system. The basis for this is an insurance system that functions in a uniform manner throughout Switzerland.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Compulsory health insurance covers the costs of treatment in the event of illness, whereby the health insurance funds are organised within the private sector and there is no state health insurance fund in Switzerland. Basic insurance is compulsory for all inhabitants – including for foreigners with residence permits – and various additional insurances can be taken out on a voluntary basis. However, in the case of these additional services the health insurance funds are free to decide whom they accept or do not accept in the insurance plans. In the basic insurances, on the other hand, the funds may not reject any application.

HOSPITALS

The University Hospital of Basel is one of the largest medical centres in Switzerland with highly recognised international standards. The doctors and nurses work on the basis of the latest scientific knowledge for the well-being, safety and recovery of the patients. Other independent public and private hospitals also offer high-quality medical care in all disciplines.

CHILDREN

In the field of healthcare children also have an important place in Basel. The University Children’s Hospital of both Basels (UKBB) is an autonomous university skills centre offering high-quality medicine in an environment designed for children. The School Dental Clinic is a public institution that was founded in 1921 for the benefit of the dental health of Basel children and young people. Already at that time the idea was to open a dental clinic where all children of the Canton of Basel-Stadt could be treated – irrespective of their family’s financial situation.

OLD PEOPLE’S HOMES AND NURSING HOMES

Over 50 old people’s homes and nursing homes are located in different areas of the canton, and specialised organisations offer home care services.
The residential and economic location of Basel-Stadt is characterised by its internationality and immigration. People from 160 countries live and work here, and practically every other marriage is between two nationalities. The immigrants and locals should feel comfortable and be successful in this urban diversity. To this end Basel-Stadt pursues an active integration and anti-discrimination policy that covers all aspects of life.

INTEGRATION MODEL

An integration model was developed for Basel-Stadt in 1999 and was further supplemented in 2012, which to this day is leading the way far beyond the town of Basel with its basic principle of promoting and supporting, but also through the awareness of its diversity and the use of its potential.

ADVICE AND CONTACT POINTS

Immigrants in Basel have at their disposal a comprehensive network of advice and contact points. GGG Migration is the competence centre for integration in Basel-Stadt. Its employees advise private individuals in over 13 languages and offer information in an advisory capacity to professionals and employers. GGG Migration provides information pertaining to social, legal, and personal problems, as well as intercultural issues and supports networking with other people and institutions.

The Residential Registration Office is the contact point for questions regarding residency and housing (registrations, notices of departure, relocations, changes of tenure, address information, etc.) and permits and ID cards (passports, residence permits and cross-border commuter permits, family residence permits, attestations, certificates).

OFFERINGS

Among the many offerings is, for example, the series of events “Welcome to Basel”, which is provided for new arrivals several times a year. At these evening events specialists provide information on the most important everyday subjects such as residence status, labour law and the educational system. At the “Welcome to the neighbourhood” event held every year, the canton and district organisations inform the residents from the various districts about life in their neighbourhood. In addition city tours are offered for new residents, conducted in several languages and covering the most important topics such as transport, post, health, shopping tips, cultural and leisure activities. This selection is complemented by many other offerings from private providers.

LANGUAGES AND INTEGRATION COURSES

An essential factor for integration is language. A broad range of language and integration courses is available in the canton so that all those interested can find a suitable language course. The courses are subsidised in part by the canton.
Politics

Switzerland has a federal structure and so the cantons have a relatively great freedom of action. Each canton has its own constitution, own laws and courts, and it is the cantons that raise direct taxes. In addition there is the principle: what is not expressly stated in the Federal constitution as a Federal competence falls under the competence of the cantons. However, the autonomy of the cantons has limits. Where a Federal law exists it takes precedence over cantonal law.

As in every democratic system the political system of the Canton of Basel-Stadt is characterised by the interplay and opposing forces of parliament and government. A central element is also the participation of the population and of parties and associations in the political and legislative process.

CITY AND COMMUNES

With its 97 square kilometres and nearly 200,000 inhabitants the canton of Basel-Stadt is the smallest canton in Switzerland. It consists of the city of Basel and the rural communes of Riehen and Bettingen, which possess autonomy as communes and are thus entitled to manage their own affairs.

CANTONAL PARLIAMENT

As a Swiss rarity the Great Council, the Basel Cantonal Parliament, is also responsible for the communal affairs of the city of Basel. The Great Council consists of 100 members and is re-elected every four years. It sits twice a month in the Basel Town Hall in public sessions.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The executive council consists of seven members with equal rights, who are elected for four-year terms. The President of the Executive Council has representative duties and presides over the Department of Presidential Affairs, the other six government members each head up one of the specialised departments. On the cantonal level a department can be compared to a “Dezernat”; the departments on Federal level correspond to ministries.

STATES COUNCILLORS AND NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

On the Federal level Switzerland has a Parliament, consisting of two chambers: the Council of States represents the cantons, the National Council the whole population. In the States Council each canton has two representatives, in the National Council each canton is represented in function of its population. As a half-canton Basel-Stadt has one States Councillor. In the National Council Basel-Stadt is represented by five delegates.

PEOPLE’S RIGHTS

Swiss citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote: they can elect representatives to Parliament on the communal, cantonal and national level and can also stand for election themselves. The governments of the Canton and the communes of Riehen and Bettingen are also elected by the population. The right to vote also gives the Swiss the possibility of expressing themselves on whether or not they agree with new laws. Furthermore they can themselves propose changes to the law through the right to initiate legislation and bring it to a vote. Through the right to a referendum a popular vote can be required on parliamentary decisions after they have been taken. By means of a petition, people can file a request, suggestion or complaint in writing to any regulatory or enforcing authority, irrespective of their voting right status – i.e. this includes foreigners and children.
Economy and employment

The Basel economic region is among the most productive and innovative in the world. Within Switzerland Basel is the region with the greatest economic momentum. About 200,000 people from Switzerland and the surrounding areas work here. Behind this success lie the knowledge-based industries. These include in particular the life sciences sector with large pharmaceutical companies and biomed­ical research that have traditionally been very strong in Basel.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

The first two or three months of employment are usually considered as a trial with a notice period varying from a few days to a maximum of two weeks. After attaining permanent employment status, the notice period is increased to between one and six months. Working hours are between 40 and 42.5 hours per week with at least 4 weeks paid vacation per year. Salaries are generally paid on a monthly basis. A 13th month salary is common and often established by law. In many companies it is usual to award a discretionary bonus when business is good.

WORK PERMITS

People from the EU and EFTA countries benefit from the free movement of people agreements: short-term working visits only have to be reported. A work or residence permit is required for visits lasting more than three months; these can be applied for at the customer centre of the Residential Registration Office.

Special rules for admission to the labour market apply to individuals from countries that are not members of the EU or EFTA. The employer has to submit their application for a work permit to the cantonal authorities. The approval of the State Secretariat for Migration in Bern is also required.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Whoever works in Switzerland is subject to the Swiss system of social security. This applies both to Swiss and foreigners. Even those who are not working are subject to the same system of social security in many areas. Basically every person is insured individually in Switzerland. For this, contributions must be made that entitle the person to corresponding benefits. Switzerland has a close-knit network of social insurances which includes unemployment insurance, family allowances, protection against the consequences of illness and accident, and loss of income due to maternity.

OLD AGE/RETIREMENT PROVISIONS

Retirement provisions are based on three pillars: the first pillar, old-age, survivors’ and disability insurance (AHV/IV) is a general public insurance, serving to secure subsistence. The second pillar refers in Switzerland to occupational pensions (BV). Together with the first pillar, it is intended to safeguard the continuation of one’s habitual standard of living. Finally the third pillar consists of individual voluntary pension provisions.
Fairs and markets

In the year 1471 the city of Basel was granted the right to hold fairs. The city thus has a centuries-old tradition, and today Basel has the largest exhibition area in Switzerland and is a popular fair and congress venue with its top-class cultural and hotel offerings. Fairs and exhibitions of international standing are regularly held here. These include the world watch and jewellery show BASELWORLD and Art Basel, the leading international fair for 20th century art.

MESSE SCHWEIZ (SWITZERLAND FAIR)

Messe Schweiz is the leading fair and congress organisation in Switzerland and is among the most important in Europe. At their two locations in Basel and Zurich the organisation puts on and manages around 90 own and guest shows per year as well as a large number of other events. Fairs represent an important element in the economy of the region.

AUTUMN FAIR

The high point of Basel’s fair calendar is the Autumn Fair, "D'Mäss", as the Baslers call this event, begins two weeks before Martinstag (Martin’s day) and is heralded on the opening Saturday at noon precisely by the fair bells of St Martin’s Church. It ends on the third following Sunday. The festival begins with many merry-go-rounds and booths on seven city squares. At the same time on Petersplatz the market stands open and in a hall of the Basel Messe the goods fair gets under way.

CITY AND WEEKLY MARKETS

The city market on the Marktplatz (market square) is a highly colourful event where an abundance of delicacies and specialties are on offer. These include vegetables and fruits, flowers, meat products, mushrooms, honey, wine, coffee, dry goods, breads and handmade products, tea and much more. The city market takes place from Monday through Wednesday until 2 pm and Friday and Saturday until 6 pm.

Other markets with regional foodstuffs are held respectively on Saturdays on Matthäusplatz, Tellplatz and Vogesenplatz. Market stalls selling fresh produce and delicious menus lure shoppers in under the great dome of the old market hall at the railway station. The market hall is open every day, but what is on offer varies depending on the time of day and which day of the week it is.

The new goods market on Barfüsserplatz in the city centre offers everything one needs for daily life – at very attractive prices. In addition there’s something for everyone. In addition there’s also plenty of choice of food and drink.

FLEA MARKETS

The flea market on Petersplatz is a popular meeting place on Saturdays for everyone who likes second-hand goods. From fine antiques to overalls, here one can find everything one needs for daily life – at very attractive prices. In the middle of the square children can sell their toys free of charge. And twice a month during the week there’s the Wednesday flea market on Barfüsserplatz with a wide variety of rare objects and treasures.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

In December Basel turns into a Christmas city: the great Christmas market is set up on Barlusserspitz and Münsterplatz. From mulled wine to ice trees, arts and crafts to Christmas tree decorations, children’s toys to seasonal delicacies, there’s something for everyone. In addition there’s a children’s programme with handicraft workshops and candle-making.
Mobility

The Canton of Basel-Stadt has an excellent infrastructure for all modes of transport. Basel places a great deal of importance on road users being able to travel in harmony.

ON FOOT

A large part of the population of Basel enjoys walking to their destination. As a relatively compact town with short routes and a good mix of living, working, shopping and leisure opportunities, Basel is the perfect place for this environmentally friendly and healthy form of movement. Its signposted network of footpaths (white signs) and hiking trails (yellow signs) helps people find their way with ease. There are about 80 strolling zones – where pedestrians have right of way over all road vehicles – and far-reaching 30 km/h zones, which make walking in Basel a pleasant and safe experience.

BY BICYCLE

Basel’s favourable topography is ideal for cycling and getting on your bike is often the quickest way to reach your destination in built-up areas. For longer routes you can combine bike-riding with a trip on public transport. Convenient bike-parking facilities are available at many public transport stops and at all train stations (Bike&Ride). Basel is a cycle-friendly town with a bicycle network that runs through the whole region (red signs). Journeys can be planned with the town cycling map or various smartphone apps.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Basel has an extensive, cross-border public transport network that boasts numerous connections and reliable punctuality. The train stations of Basel SBB and the Badischer Bahnhof connect Basel with the national and international long-distance and regional lines. The inexpensive “Umweltabonnement”, a monthly environmentally-friendly travel card, covers all means of public transport as bus, tram or train in the area of the Tarifverbund Nordwestschweiz TNW. The travel card is available from all TNW transport companies. Individual Tickets (“Billetto”) and multi-journey tickets must be purchased before the start of your journey or validated. They can be obtained on the Internet, smartphone app or from the ticket machines at almost every bus, train or tram stop. With the Halbtax-Abo (half-fare card) you can purchase public transport tickets in Switzerland at reduced prices. The general season ticket allows unlimited travel on almost the entire public transport network in Switzerland. There are also attractive ticketing and information services for trips on public transport across the border. Timetables are available on the respective transport company’s website or via a smartphone app and as a hard copy.

BY CAR

You must buy a parking ticket if you want to park on public property in the town. Local residents can obtain a parking card, which allows them to park on blue marked parking areas in their neighbourhood without any time restrictions. Visitors arriving by car can obtain half-day or day parking tickets from public transport ticket machines or on the Internet. Before travelling on a motorway, you must purchase a toll sticker, which is valid for one calendar year. Car sharing is very common: Mobility offers 130 vehicles at nearly 50 locations in Basel. The Sharoo platform provides the opportunity to rent third-party private cars or to rent your own car out. Catch a Car runs a car-sharing service that is not tied to stations, in and around Basel with 120 cars.

AIRPORT

The EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg is located three kilometres away from the outskirts of Basel-Stadt. It can be reached by bus number 50 in about a quarter of an hour from Basel SBB train station. The Swiss-French airport offers connections for nearly 100 European destinations.

Fairs and Markets

FAIRS AND MARKETS

- www.messen-maerkte.bs.ch
- www.altemarkthalle.ch
- www.muba.ch
- www.baselworld.com
- www.arthub.basel.com
- MCH Messe Schweiz (Basel) AG
  Messeplatz, Postfach, 4005 Basel
  Tel. 058 200 20 20, www.messe.ch
- Congress Center Basel
  MCH Messe Schweiz (Basel) AG
  Messeplatz, Postfach, 4005 Basel
  Tel. 058 206 28 28, www.congress.ch

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- www.messen-maerkte.bs.ch
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MOBILITY
- www.mobilitaet.bs.ch
- www.basel-unterswegs.ch
- www.stadtplan.bs.ch
- maps.google.ch
- mapsearch.ch

ON FOOT
- City map
  Available in bookstores and from the Basel Tourist office
  www.stadtplan.bs.ch

BY BICYCLE
- Town cycling map
  Available in German, French or English in bookstores, most bike stores and from the Basel Tourist office
  www.geo.bs.ch/velostadtplan
- Cargo Bike Hire
  www.carvelo2go.ch

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- Timetable Information and Station Timetable
  www.sbb.ch (Ticket Purchasing Options)
  www.bvb.ch
  www.blt.ch
  www.tnw.ch
  www.triregio.info (cross-border)
  www.efa-bw.de (cross-border)
  www.bahn.de (Ticket Purchasing Options)
  www.sncf.com (Ticket Purchasing Options)
- Smartphone-Apps
  SBB Mobile (Ticket Purchasing Options)
  BLT-Abfahrten
  AAGL-Echtzeit
  TNW-Ticket (Ticket Purchasing Options)
  NW-Mobil (Ticket Purchasing Options)
  DB Navigator (Ticket Purchasing Options)
  SNCF (Ticket Purchasing Options)

BY CAR
- Motor Vehicle Inspection
  Clarastrasse 38, Postfach, 4005 Basel
  Tel. 061 267 82 00, www.mfk.bs.ch
- Parking tickets and Permits
  www.polizei.bs.ch/verkehr/strassenverkehr
- Car-Sharing
  www.mobility.ch
  www.catch-a-car.ch
  www.sharoo.com

AIRPORT
- EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg
  Tel. 061 325 31 11, www.euroairport.com

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