



«Häärzlig willkomme in Basel.»

You have decided to live in Switzerland, in the beautiful city and region of Basel.

We bid you a warm welcome to the city at the crossroads of the three countries: France, Germany and Switzerland.

Everything Flows

The Rhine dominates Basel and divides the city into two halves – Greater Basel and Lesser Basel. It is a transport route, local recreation area and landmark at the same time.

Traditional and Modern

In no other Swiss city do such strong and exciting opposites meet: the international pharmaceutical industry and time-honoured guilds, the contemporary architecture and historical old city, the traditional university city and dynamic financial marketplace, the important trade fair site with the ultra modern conference centre plus artistic and cultural treasures and gems.

A Centre of Life

Whether it be FC Basel, Toy Worlds Museum Basel, the Basel Carnival, Swiss Indoors, Avo Session, Basel Tattoo, Basel Symphony Orchestra, Art Basel, Basel Theatre, Basel Autumn Fair or Beyeler Foundation: people of all ages will find a leisure experience to suit them in Basel. Here, in the immediate vicinity and in the neighbouring areas of South Baden and Alsace you will find a large number of excellent, friendly and typical restaurants.

A City in the Middle of the Countryside

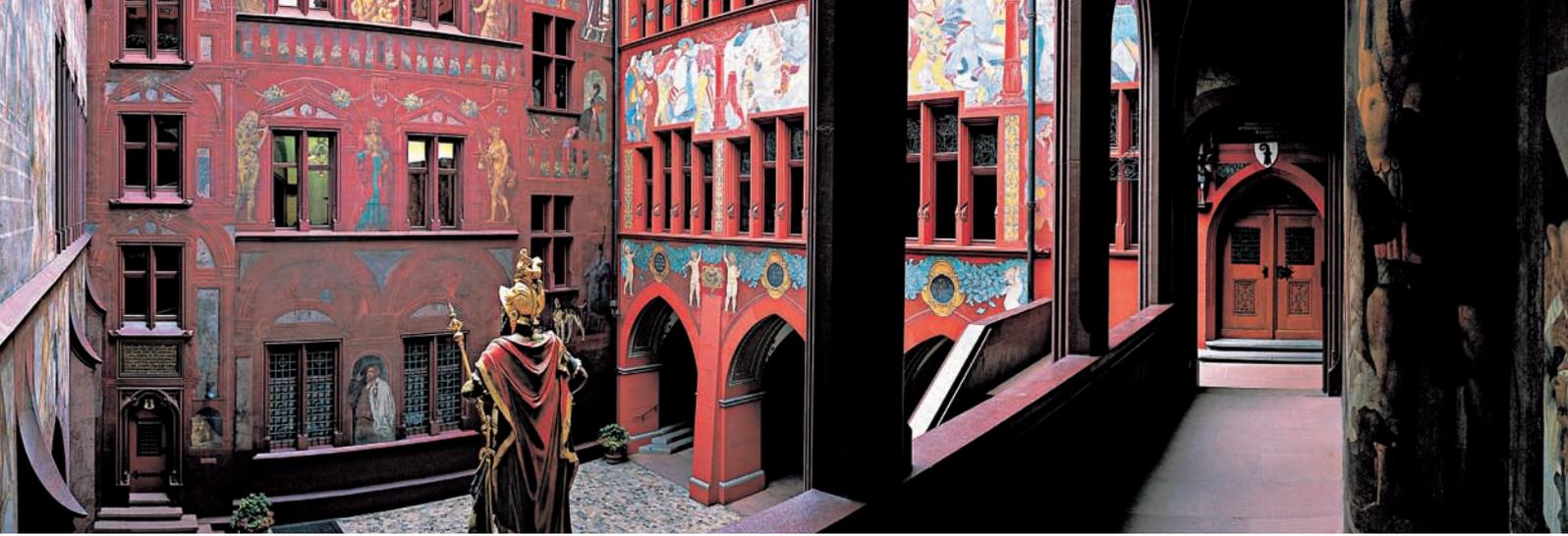
You can also go for a short trip out of the city to enjoy nature and the countryside. The hilly landscape of Basel county takes you into another world with its sheer cliffs and wide plains. On a clear day, you can even enjoy a view of the Swiss Alps from the summits of the Alsace and the southern Black Forest.

The Baslers' Bank

At Basler Kantonalbank we feel a strong connection with the city of Basel and stand by the people of Basel and the companies of Northwest Switzerland as a partner in financial matters. As close ties with our customers are very important to us, we maintain a densely woven network of branches in Basel. With our numerous and varied sponsoring commitments we also make a substantial contribution to the cultural and social life of the city and the quality of life of its residents.

With us, you are the focus.

In order to make your start in your new home easier, we have put together some important information for you.



Before the Move

Choosing a Location

In Switzerland taxes are relatively low. This can, however, vary greatly from canton to canton. Basel-City has an average tax burden. In the canton of Basel-County the tax rate is somewhat lower. You can find more information on Basel-City at www.basel.ch/steuernundlebenskosten

Looking for an Apartment

Among other resources, Internet portals such as www.homegate.ch and www.immoscout24.ch can be helpful when you are searching for an apartment. At every viewing of an apartment, it is advisable to take along a copy of your employment contract, your residence permit, if you already have one, and credit rating information. Thanks to the well developed public transport network, you can also consider renting an apartment outside the city. Normally, the landlord will ask for a rent deposit equal to 2–3 months' rents, to be deposited in a bank account in the tenant's name.

Cancellations and Giving Notice of Departure

When moving to Switzerland you should cancel all contracts at your old place of residence; that is, if you no longer need them, in particular:

- health insurance, household insurance, vehicle insurance
- public services
- magazine subscription, telephone/Internet connection, TV connection, gym membership

Give notice of departure to your local authority and have it confirmed. It may also be a good idea to have your passport extended again in your home country. This will save you trips to your embassy in Switzerland. Give the postal service a change of address order and/or tell your friends, insurance companies and bank your new address.

Customs and Entry Requirements

You can find detailed information regarding entry and importing goods into Switzerland at www.ezv.admin.ch. When packing, it is advisable to make a rough list of the things you are bringing with you because you will be required to present it to Swiss customs upon entry.

Importing Cars

If you would like to bring your own vehicle into Switzerland, you should do it with your other household items, because further charges may be incurred if it is brought later. Find out about it in good time from the Swiss customs authorities: www.ezv.admin.ch



After the Move

Registering of Address

After arrival, all people moving to the canton of Basel–City must report to the canton’s registry office within eight days, with their passport, two passport photos and a visa. Detailed information for Basel–City is available at: www.basel.ch/leben/anmeldungundadministratives

Residence Permit

If you wish to stay in Switzerland for longer than three months you will require a valid work and/or residence permit. To obtain these, please contact the responsible residents’ registration office within 14 days after the move. You can find further information for Basel–City at: www.basel.ch/leben/anmeldungundadministratives

Driver’s License and Vehicle Registration Approval

Driver’s License and Vehicle Registration Approval
For a year after first arriving in Switzerland you can use your foreign driver’s license. Within this period you must exchange your foreign license for a Swiss one. The time limits for the registration of a car are 12 months if you bring in a used car and one month if you bring in a new car. www.mfk.bs.ch/fuehrerausweise/fuehrerausweise-auslaendisch

School System

The school system in Switzerland varies from canton to canton. The following applies in Basel–City:
compulsory schooling starts with kindergarten (from the age of five, for a period of two years). This is followed by primary school, for a period of six years. Secondary school lasts three years and is divided into levels or streams according to ability. Depending on performance, this is followed by a professional apprenticeship with certificate of proficiency, professional apprenticeship with professional maturity certificate, technical school with specialized maturity certificate, or high school with maturity certificate.

Social security

In Switzerland, old-age, surviving dependents’ and disability insurance is based on the so-called three-pillars system.

Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3
Social security	Occupational benefits	Individual provision
– AHV/IV – supplementary benefits	– mandatory BVG/UVG – extramandatory	– tied (3a) – free (3b)
Aim: Assurance of existential needs	Aim: Continuation of accustomed standard of living	Aim: Personal supplement

The system is based on the mandatory pay-as-you-go funded basic provision of the Swiss population for the assurance of existential needs and the prevention of poverty (in particular old-age, surviving dependents’ and disability insurance).

Extension of Pillar 1: Pillar 2 is based on capital funded provision for all employed persons (for example, pension funds, accident insurance and disability insurance). Pillar 3 supplements these two pillars with voluntary, individual and tax-privileged provision (tied [3a] and free [3b] provision).



After the Move

Health Insurance

In Switzerland health insurance is compulsory and this requirement must be met within three months of arrival. The so-called basic insurance covers standard requirements and can be supplemented by individual additional insurance policies. You can find information and a comparison of costs and benefits of the individual insurance policies at www.comparis.ch/krankenkassen

Accident Insurance

You can take out an accident insurance in combination with the compulsory health insurance. This is, however, only necessary if you work less than eight hours a week for your employer. Otherwise you are automatically insured against accidents by your employer.

Once You Have Arrived

Get to know your surroundings and the people:

- Advice and information for newcomers, all you need to know about Switzerland:
www.swissworld.org/de/
- The Swiss Portal: www.ch.ch/private/index.html
- Swiss German language courses
- Guided tours of the city with Basel Tourism
www.basel.com/stadtfuehrung

Your Leisure Paradise – Basel-City, the border crossroads, Switzerland

Whether it is culture, sport, entertainment or wellness you want, Basel has plenty of everything to offer you. And Switzerland has countless leisure-time activities in store for you, too. Information may be had, for example, at:

www.basel.com
www.basel.ch
www.baselland-tourismus.ch
www.myswitzerland.ch

All information has been compiled according to the best of our knowledge, but no guarantee is given for its completeness or correctness. References to statements/information from third parties are in many instances intended as examples and are therefore not conclusive. In the event of doubts it is recommended to contact the competent official or private agencies directly, especially in the case of official obligations.