

Zürich

Geneva + Basel

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|  Need to know |  Hotels |  Food and drink |  Retail |  Essays |
|  Culture |  Design and architecture |  Sport and fitness |  Walks |  Resources |

Bistros. Apéro. Nightlife — Art. Design. Architecture — Hiking. Shopping. Swimming



... All aboard! Join us for a tour of these cities' outposts of good food, design, retail and more. Los geht's! ...

Hotels

— Inns and outs

Basel's hotel offering may not be quite as snappy as its cultural cachet but it's far from staid. From a palatial 17th-century pile hung with Old Master paintings to a 20th-century stop-in complete with Eames furniture, you'll find plenty of choice. If the city's museums and galleries aren't enough, you can even stay in a room that features a rotating exhibition or another that's been individually designed and decorated by an artist.

Basel's fair-filled calendar means there are certain weeks each year when the top hotels are always fully booked; make arrangements well in advance if you want to be in with a chance. Most hotels offer their guests complimentary travel passes and many have beautiful views of the Rhein. Wherever you choose, you'll always be within walking distance of the city's best restaurants and shops.



① Krafft Basel, Altstadt Kleinbasel
Old and new

Ernst Krafft commissioned Swiss architect Ferdinand Iselin to amalgamate three medieval houses into a four-storey hotel in 1872 and, after a series of renovations, Krafft Basel expanded into the neighbouring building above what's now a charming wine bar (see page 105).

The hotel offers 60 classic yet modern rooms and junior suites. Contemporary furniture – including chairs by Charles & Ray Eames and coffee tables by Isamu Noguchi – sit alongside traditional design details such as the original tiled lobby and spiral staircase. The river-facing rooms are hard to beat.
12 Rheingasse, 4058
+41 (0)61 690 9130
krafftbasel.ch

MONOCLE COMMENT: There's no better way to explore Basel than on two wheels and Krafft offers Brompton bikes to all guests free of charge.



Kraffy move

Another of the Krafft Group's boltholes, the 65-room Hotel Nomad has a lively restaurant, meeting room, sauna and small but well-equipped gym. It's handily located near the train station and features pops of colour alongside oak doors and concrete walls and floors.
nomad.ch

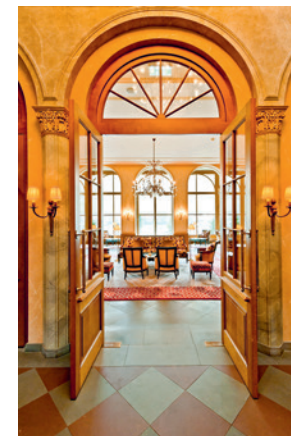


② Les Trois Rois, Altstadt Grossbasel
Fit for royalty

This grande dame dates back to 1681 but the current building, which owner Thomas Straumann and Basel architect Christian Lang restored to its full splendour in 2006, hails from 1844.

The regal rooms are decked with refurbished antique furniture (much chosen by Straumann himself), marble bathrooms, silk wallpaper and Old Master paintings. The effect, though, feels welcoming rather than haughty. Straumann also turned the next-door fin-de-siècle building into an art deco-style annex, if you prefer more contemporary surrounds.
8 Blumemrain, 4001
+41 (0)61 260 5050
lestroisrois.com

MONOCLE COMMENT: Les Trois Rois' list of eminent guests includes Pablo Picasso, Thomas Mann and Napoleon Bonaparte. The latter popped in for a business lunch in 1797.

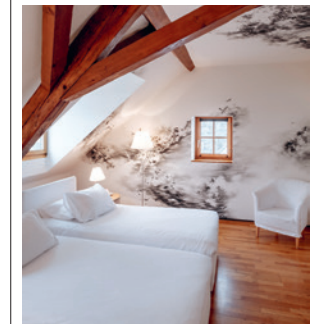


③ Der Teufelhof Basel, Altstadt Grossbasel
Home is where the art is

This privately owned hotel bills itself as a *gast und kulturhaus* (guest and culture house). In fact there are two hotels, which together offer 33 rooms, plus a theatre, a wine shop, a café-bar and two restaurants.

Each room in the Art Hotel is a live-in work of art and every five years a different artist is invited to restyle it as they please (the results are eclectic, to say the least). The more down-to-earth Gallery Hotel features rotating exhibitions from local galleries.
49 Leonhardsgraben, 4051
+41 (0)61 261 1010
teufelhof.com

MONOCLE COMMENT: We recommend the more minimal Gallery Hotel, which offers 20 rooms and four junior suites.



Watch this space

The team behind Helvetia (see page 14) in Zürich are set to open a hotel in Volkshaus (see page 102), the multipurpose venue on Stauffacherstrasse. The design comes from Herzog & de Meuron and the hotel is slated to open by 2020.
volkshaus-basel.ch