

Bikefestival Basel

August 27 and 28

For the 21st year, Basel will be hosting this festival for fans of bicycle racing and stunts as well as for bicycle enthusiasts in general. For two days, the Bikefestival Basel will attract over 10,000 visitors and host various cycling events, including approximately 700 contenders racing in the finals of the Swiss Bike Cup, one of the most important race series in Europe. The competitors will ride through a 1.5 km parcours that is set entirely within the Schänzli Arena at St. Jakob, so that spectators can watch every part of the action.

Another thrilling event is the EBM Pumptrack, where professional cyclists race around a small, oval, slanted track, full of twists, bends, and jumps, creating an exciting buzz of speed, centrifugal forces, and the inevitable competition. If you prefer jumps and stunts, then don't miss the Pepita Dirt Jump Show with the best tricks at Bikefestival Basel. Here, world-class athletes will have you holding your breath as they defy gravity with their jumps. The obstacles are newly designed and combined each year to set the highest standard for adrenaline junkies everywhere. Last but not least, don't miss the exceptionally talented You-Tube

sensation, Danny MacAskill, who will make a guest appearance at this year's Bikefestival Basel. What this 30-year-old Scotsman can do will excite young and old professional bikers and amateurs alike. Whatever your interests in bicycles, come to the Schänzli Arena near St. Jakob—Europe's largest bike arena—for a weekend of bike fun! Entrance is free.

For those who would like to jump on the saddle themselves, the festival also includes the BLKB Bike Challenge on Saturday, August 27. This event is not a race but a tour in which neither timing nor ranking is important, but first and foremost the joy of biking. With four different trails that range from 30 km to 132 km to match any biker's abilities, as well as spectacular views, this event aims to motivate large sections of the population to engage in sports while discovering Basel's beautiful surrounds. You can also register a team of 4–10 people who will tally the total number of kilometers travelled on all trails; the team with the greatest travelled distance will win a commemorative prize. Visit their website to see a map of the different trails and register online to participate; registration costs range from CHF 30–60, with an additional CHF 15–20 fee for late registration.

www.bikefestival-basel.ch



Basler Bruggelauf (Bridge Run)

August 14

The Basler Bruggelauf is so named because the course leads across seven bridges over the Rhein and Birs. Kids, teens, families, recreational runners, and elite runners are all invited to participate in the 11th edition of this run whose motto is "Mitmachen ist wichtiger als Gewinnen" (Participating is more important than winning)!

The event features several runs of various lengths. The longest one is the actual Bruggelauf, with a total of 16.1 km (10 miles); it includes two rounds around the old town as well as the circuit along the Rhein; there are several age categories for this run for both men and women. Those who feel they are not up to the challenge of the full Bruggelauf can register for one of the shorter circuits, including an intermediate 6.0 km run consisting of two loops through the old town and a 3.0 km "Einsteiger" (beginners) run with only one loop through the old town. In a separate category, teens ages 13–17 will follow the same 3.0 km loop around the old town. Finally, kids ages 6–12 can participate in a 1.2 km run along the Rhein. All runs start and end on the Kleinbasel side of the Rhein at Kaserne at 10:30, except for the kids' run, which starts at 12:30. The ceremony to announce the winners will commence at 13:00, so be sure to stick around and enjoy the festivities. There will be many tents set up with food, music, and more.

Registration: You can register online for any category of the Bruggelauf until Wednesday, August 10, at <http://baslerbruggelauf.ch/der-lauf/anmeldung/>. The 16.1 km Bruggelauf costs CHF 30, the 6.0 km intermediate run costs CHF 20, the 3.0 km beginners' and teenagers' run costs CHF 10, and the 1.2 km children's run is free. Late registrations will be accepted on Saturday, August 13, from 17:30–19:30 and on Sunday, August 14, from 8:30–10:00 in the Turnhalle (gymnasium) at Kaserne for an additional late fee of CHF 5. Note that kids can late-register until 12:00 on the day of the race.

Start Numbers: Number bibs will be handed out at Kaserne on August 13 from 17:30–19:30, as well as on August 14 starting at 8:30. The bibs are equipped with data chips that will calculate the time. Be sure to return these at the end of the race to avoid a charge.

<http://baslerbruggelauf.ch/>

Rheinschwimmen

August 16

On the third Tuesday in August, everyone is invited to float down the Rhein together in an annual tradition called "Rheinschwimmen." Thousands plunge into the water simultaneously, entering anywhere along the permissible swimming lane on the Kleinbasel side, and let the current carry them downstream. All boat traffic is temporarily halted for this event, which starts at 18:00. Whether you participate or simply come to watch, this is an event worth marking! In case of bad weather or high water it will be postponed to the following Tuesday, August 23. All participants receive a commemorative medal.

www.rheinschwimmen.ch

