

PRACTICAL COMPANION

BASEL

Gundeldingen

An autumn away · September to the end of November

THE HOME INDEX

Practical Companion

Basel · Gundeldingen

An autumn away · September to the end of November

Basel · Freiburg · Innsbruck · Quebec City · Colmar · Annecy. Basel first.

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What This Guide Is For

The proposition is an autumn away: September, October and November, lived somewhere else rather than visited, in an apartment of our own, doing the ordinary things a life is made of.

Six places were examined as answers to that proposition. Basel came first. This book takes that result seriously enough to ask what follows from it.

If you spend an autumn in Basel and live in Gundeldingen, this book tells you what follows: where to look for a home and what it costs, where the food comes from, where to run when the mornings are dark, how to move by tram and train, where the harvest is on a Saturday in October, how to get home from either airport, what to do when people come, and what all of it feels like in November.

Two things this is not. It is not a tourist guide; the old town appears here as somewhere you cross on the way home. And it is not the account of how the six were compared. That work is finished and stays behind the curtain. What survives of it is one page at the back explaining why the result is shaped the way it is.

Five places did not finish first, and they appear here too, early and honestly, because each of them would have been a different and defensible autumn.

PART ONE

The Fall

Why Leave

Spring was an argument about waiting. New England takes too long to arrive, and a season that begins in April somewhere else is a season recovered.

Autumn is not that argument. Autumn at home is good. September in Wellesley is the best month of the year, October is the month strangers fly in to see, and nobody who lives here needs to be told what a New England fall looks like. There is no season to escape.

So the question changes. It is no longer what we can avoid. It is what three ordinary months are worth when they are spent somewhere unusually good at ordinary life.

The proposition is the whole arc, not the pretty part of it: September, October and November, all three of them.

Those three months are three different propositions.

September is late summer with the crowds gone. On the first of the month the sun is up in Basel from ten to seven until ten past eight in the evening, thirteen and a half hours of usable day. The evenings are still outdoors, the markets are at their best, and the harvest has started in every direction.

October is the month that declares itself. Colour, vineyards, walking weather, regional Saturdays. This is the month that makes all six candidates persuasive.

November is the test. The clocks go back on the last Sunday in October, and the difference is not gradual: on the thirtieth the sun sets at a quarter past six and on the thirty-first at a quarter past five. By the middle of the month the day is nine hours and a quarter and it is dark before five. The

weather stops being decorative. In an average year Basel has about a hundred and sixty hours of sunshine in September and about sixty-five in November, and ten days of rain in each of the last two months.

Nothing survives that except ordinary life.

That third month is why this book exists and why the choice mattered. A place that is beautiful in October and thin in November is a holiday. A place that still works when it is dark at five is a season.

So we did not look for the loveliest autumn. We looked for the one that still holds on an ordinary Tuesday in the middle of November: groceries, a run before or after work, a doctor if it comes to that, a train somewhere on Saturday, friends who can find you, and a kitchen you want to come home to at the end of a short afternoon.

Six Ways to Spend an Autumn

Six places were examined properly. Each of them would have been a real autumn, and none of the five that did not finish first was disqualified for being unpleasant. They are set out here in the shape the investigation left them, which is not a straight line; the Method Note at the back explains why.

Basel · Gundeldingen. A working Swiss city of about 175,000 on the Rhine, with France and Germany inside the tram network, and a quarter behind the railway station where the buildings are plain and the ordinary week is unusually complete. Autumn in Gundeldingen is a grocery shop at the Gundelitor, a Saturday market at Tellplatz, a run up onto the Bruderholz and a train on Saturday to somewhere with a harvest. It is not the calmest of the six, and it is not the cheapest. It is the one where we could actually find an apartment for those months, and the one where the week still looks whole in the third month.

Freiburg · Wiehre. Of the six, the one with the loveliest autumn life. A university city at the foot of the Black Forest; the Wiehre with its tree-lined streets south of the old town; the forest at the end of the road; the market in front of the Münster; the vineyards of the Markgräflerland beginning a few minutes outside the city; and a Herbstmесс of its own in the middle of October. The problem is not Freiburg once you are there. The problem is getting the door open. September and October are exactly when the winter semester arrives, and the free housing market is at its hardest for a newcomer precisely in the weeks we would need it.

Innsbruck · Saggen. The autumn with mountains in it. Saggen is quiet, orderly and genuinely residential, with the Inn promenade for running

and the Hofgarten at the end of the street, and the Alps close enough to be an ordinary Saturday rather than an expedition. Innsbruck has the calmest street life of the six. It is also the place where the season turns hardest: the Tirolean November comes down earlier, wetter and greyer, and the high country begins closing before the low country reopens. Getting home is less simple than from the stronger gateways in the field, with a modest airport and longer itineraries doing more of the work.

Quebec City · Montcalm. The only candidate outside Europe, and the only one where the autumn is the point of the place. Montcalm is a handsome residential quarter beside the Plains of Abraham, with the park at the door, the trail open all year, and avenue Cartier for an ordinary evening. It is also the easiest to reach from home: no Atlantic crossing, a short hop through Montreal, and a road that could be driven at need. What it costs is the rest. Emergency care is materially less reassuring than in the European systems in the field, where a bad night can mean hours in a waiting room and longer again on a stretcher. The autumn turns to winter well before the end of November. And the administration is francophone by law, which makes our French an asset rather than a convenience.

Colmar · Maraîchers. The prettiest of the six, and the one where the harvest is closest. Colmar sits in the middle of the Alsace wine route; the Maraîchers quarter is quiet, low and residential; the September grape harvest happens on the doorstep rather than at the end of a train ride. It is also the smallest ordinary week in the field: a thinner set of everyday shops within walking distance of the quarter, a smaller hospital system, and a city that finishes its day earlier. Colmar in October is the postcard. Colmar in November is a small town in the fog, which is either the point or the problem.

Annecy · Annecy-le-Vieux. Autumn on a lake, with mountains behind it. Annecy-le-Vieux is residential, well served and pleasant; the lakeside promenade from Albigny to the Petit Port is a running route most cities would envy; the hospital is better than the size of the town suggests. What

Annecy has least of is reach. The way home runs through Geneva, and it runs one-stop; the regional network serves Geneva well and does not extend much further. The return path is less resilient than the stronger gateways in the field, which matters across three months in which people would be coming and going.

How to read that list. Basel finished ahead of all five. Freiburg and Innsbruck both finished ahead of Quebec City, Colmar and Annecy, and could not honestly be separated from each other. Quebec City, Colmar and Annecy could not be separated among themselves either. We have not invented an order where the evidence did not produce one.

Why Basel

Basel finished first, and not by a distance.

Against Freiburg and against Innsbruck the margins are the narrowest in the whole investigation, and both of those places beat Basel outright on things that matter. Freiburg and Innsbruck each put better running ground at the front door, and each is quieter to live in than a dense quarter behind a railway station. If the autumn were only about October, either of them could have taken it.

What settled it was that the whole proposition holds together, across all three months, with an apartment we can actually rent.

Autumn changes the housing question, and it changes it in Basel's favour. This was the surprise of the investigation. In Gundeldingen there is real furnished two-bedroom stock available for an autumn, at the length we need, inside the budget: a furnished two-bedroom on Solothurnerstrasse at about CHF 2,390 a month on a two-month term, with institutional operators holding further inventory in the same quarter. Freiburg is the opposite case. Its housing market is at its tightest exactly when the winter semester arrives, which is exactly when we would be arriving. The city that offers the better autumn is the city that cannot reliably let us in.

The rest is what we already knew about Basel, now asked to work in the dark half of the season. Three countries inside a monthly transport pass. Two practical airport channels: EuroAirport about twenty minutes from Basel SBB, and Zürich Airport by direct train. A station ten minutes from the front door with the Rhine valley, the Jura, Alsace and the Black Forest at the other end of it. A hospital system that does not require planning. A quarter where the groceries, the markets, the pharmacy and the tram are inside a quarter of an hour on foot. English that carries most ordinary

encounters, with German for courtesy and French useful twenty minutes away across the border. And, for three months in which we would want people to come, a city that guests can reach without being driven anywhere and can occupy themselves in while we work.

Autumn also makes unusually good use of Basel's regional reach. From Gundeldingen the harvest is a train ride in three directions: the Markgräflerland north into Germany, the Alsace wine route west into France, the Baselbiet and the Jura south into the Swiss country. In September and October those are ordinary Saturday journeys from the same station and transport network you use all week.

And November, which is the whole argument. Basel's November is not attractive: about sixty-five hours of sun in the month, ten days of rain, six degrees, dark by five. But November in Basel is still a functioning city. The tram network, the station, the shops, healthcare, the museums and the regional trains remain part of an ordinary week; and at the end of the month the Christmas market opens and gives the last days of the season a different kind of light.

That is the case. It is not that Basel is the most beautiful autumn on the list. It is that Basel is the autumn that still works on 17 November.

PART TWO

Basel

The City

Basel is Switzerland's third city and it does not behave like a Swiss city of postcards. It is a working place: pharmaceutical towers along the river, one of the busiest railway junctions in Europe, a Rhine port that connects Switzerland to the sea, and a trade-fair quarter that fills the city several times a year. It is also an old university city with a medieval centre, one of the oldest public art collections in the world, and about 175,000 people living in it.

The river is the city. The Rhine comes in from the east, turns sharply north in the middle of Basel, and leaves for Germany and the North Sea. On its southern and western bank stands Grossbasel, the old town, the Münster and most of the institutions. On the northern bank is Kleinbasel, flatter and mixed, with the trade-fair grounds behind it. Four bridges and four small cable ferries cross between them, and the ferries run on the current alone.

The river changes character across this season, and the change is one of the first things you will notice. In September the Rhine is still a swimming city: the current carries people down from the Museum Tinguely toward the Johanniterbrücke in the late afternoon, and the promenades on both banks are busy until dark. By the middle of October the swimmers are gone. What remains is the walk, and the walk gets better: low sun on the water, the old town in silhouette from Kleinbasel, and the ferries still crossing in the rain.

The border is inside the city. Most cities have suburbs. Basel has two other countries. France begins at the western edge of the city, Germany at its northern and eastern edges, and the regional transport network crosses both without ceremony. Trams run into Germany at Weil am Rhein and into France at Saint-Louis. This is the fact that shapes an autumn here

more than any other: the harvest country on both sides of the border is inside an ordinary Saturday.

How it lives. Orderly, reserved, prosperous, and more relaxed than its reputation. The day starts early. Shops close at seven or eight in the evening and on Sundays, and dinner happens at home more often than out. Between the national holiday at the beginning of August and Christmas, the canton's calendar has no public holiday at all, so the season you are proposing to live is an unbroken working autumn: the city is at its most ordinary for all three of your months, which is exactly the condition under which it was chosen.

The autumn calendar is short and specific. The Herbstmesse, the oldest fun fair in Switzerland, opens at noon on the Saturday before 30 October with a bell rung from the tower of the Martinskirche and takes over seven squares in the centre for about a fortnight. In 2027 that means 23 October to 7 November, with the market on Petersplatz running to the 9th. Then, at the end of November, the Christmas market opens on Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz: 25 November in 2027, which falls inside the last week of this season. Between them, in the darkest fortnight of the year here, the city is mostly just itself.

What will surprise you. How small it is: you can walk from almost anywhere in Grossbasel to almost anywhere else in half an hour. How much it offers for its size: a symphony orchestra, a theatre, and a museum density that would be remarkable in a capital. How early the evening arrives in the second half of the season, and how little difference that makes to whether the city works. And how completely the three countries are braided together, so that a Saturday in another one is a decision made at breakfast rather than a trip planned in advance.



Small enough that you can walk from almost anywhere in Grossbasel to almost anywhere else in half an hour.

Photograph: Ludovicus Aurelius, September 2026

Gundeldingen

Gundeldingen sits directly behind Basel SBB, the main railway station, on the side away from the old town. The railway tracks separate it from the rest of the city so completely that it has long been described, by people who live there, as a small town with its own life. About twenty thousand people live in it, which makes it the densest quarter in Basel.

It was built quickly, in roughly three decades at the end of the nineteenth century, to house a city that had outgrown its walls, and its planners did something unusual for Basel: they laid it out as a grid, on an American model, with long straight streets crossing at right angles and courtyards inside the blocks. The streets are named after battles and places from the old Confederacy, which is why an ordinary walk to the supermarket takes you along Solothurnerstrasse and across Tellplatz.

What it is, and what it is not. It is not beautiful in the way the old town is beautiful. Green space is scarce; outside the park at Winkelriedplatz and the Margarethenpark on its western edge there is little of it, and the hill begins where the quarter ends. What it has instead is completeness. Two full supermarkets, two weekly markets, pharmacies, doctors, bakeries, a converted machine works full of workshops and restaurants, a tram line into the city and another up the hill, and one of the great railway stations of Europe ten minutes from the front door.

In autumn the quarter's ordinary qualities matter more than they would in June. The blocks are close, the shops are near, the tram is near, and the walk home in the rain is short. This is a quarter for a season in which you will not want to plan an expedition in order to buy bread.

How it is arranged. The quarter reads in parallel bands, north to south.

Along the tracks: the modern south face of the station and the footbridge over the rails, offices and hotels. Useful and busy; noisy in places at night.

Güterstrasse, one block in: the main street, with trams 15 and 16 running into the city and up to the Bruderholz. Here are the two big supermarkets facing each other at the Gundelitor, most of the everyday shops, and the terraces at Tellplatz, which are the quarter's centre of gravity until the weather ends the outdoor season.

Dornacherstrasse, the next band south: mixed residential and commercial, with the Gundeldinger Feld, the converted Sulzer-Burckhardt machine works, on its southern side. Its Tuesday market stands in the yard of the old factory, under cover of the buildings, whatever the weather is doing.

Between Dornacherstrasse and Gundeldingerstrasse: the residential interior, and the park at Winkelriedplatz, the largest open space inside the quarter, rebuilt by the city in 2023 with lawns, a playground and a café. This is where an apartment should be.

Gundeldingerstrasse and south: increasingly residential as the ground rises toward the Bruderholz, the open hill of fields and farm tracks on the city's southern edge. Bus 36, the city's orbital line, crosses here.

The two markets. The Saturday market at Tellplatz runs through the morning until one, and sells seasonal fruit and vegetables at Demeter or at least organic quality, along with bread and pastry. The Tuesday market stands in the yard at the Gundeldinger Feld, also until one. Between September and the end of November what they sell changes completely, and that is a large part of what makes an autumn here worth living rather than merely spending; The Week and The Fall follow that change month by month. Both markets are in the quarter, and neither stands on one of the squares the Herbstmesse occupies.

Where to look. The quarter's noise gathers on three lines: the rail yards to the north, Güterstrasse with its trams and its terraces around Tellplatz, and the busier through-roads. The blocks between Dornacherstrasse and

Gundeldingerstrasse are quieter than any of them, and quieter still inside the courtyards.

Do this. Concentrate the apartment search on the interior blocks around Winkelriedplatz, between Dornacherstrasse and Gundeldingerstrasse. Solothurnerstrasse and Pfeffingerstrasse are promising streets to begin with, and the first block north of Dornacherstrasse is acceptable if the apartment itself is right. Stay off the Güterstrasse frontage, especially near Tellplatz, off anything facing the rail yards, and away from the immediate entrances of the Gundeldinger Feld if you sleep lightly. For an autumn, add two questions the spring would not have asked: which way the main rooms face, since the sun is low and short by the end of October, and how the building is heated.

From the Winkelriedplatz blocks, on foot (estimated from the street plan; to be confirmed on the ground):

TO	APPROXIMATE WALK
Supermarkets at the Gundelitor (Güterstrasse)	4-6 minutes
Tellplatz (Saturday market)	5-7 minutes
Gundeldinger Feld (Tuesday market)	5-8 minutes
Basel SBB footbridge	6-8 minutes
Walk-in clinic and station pharmacy (north side of the station)	10-12 minutes
Margarethenpark	5-7 minutes
Bruderholz water tower	25-30 minutes, uphill
Old town (Barfusserplatz)	20 minutes on foot, or about 8 by tram

What this means for an ordinary morning. Within a walk of a quarter of an hour, Gundeldingen gives you two full supermarkets, two weekly markets, a park with a café, pharmacies, a tram line into the old town, one

of the great railway stations of Europe and an open hill to run on, without asking you to live next to any of them. The station and the tram street are on the quarter's northern edge; the hill is on its southern edge; the quiet blocks where you look are in between.

In September that arrangement is pleasant. In the second half of November it is the reason the season works.

Basel and Gundeldingen



The station and the tram street are on the quarter's northern edge; the hill is on its southern edge; the quiet blocks where you look are in between.

Base: Kanton Basel-Stadt, surveyed land cover and residential-quarter boundaries (open government data). Street names placed on reconstructed centrelines; confirm on the ground. Outside the canton the survey is not drawn.

The Winkelriedplatz Blocks



Stay off the Güterstrasse frontage, especially near Tellplatz, off anything facing the rail yards, and away from the immediate entrances of the Gundeldinger Feld if you sleep lightly.

Base: Kanton Basel-Stadt, surveyed land cover and residential-quarter boundaries (open government data). Street names placed on reconstructed centrelines; confirm on the ground. Outside the canton the survey is not drawn.

PART THREE

Living There

Home

You have decided. Start with the calendar.

Before anything else, make sure the days are yours. As U.S. citizens you may each spend up to ninety days in any rolling 180-day period in the Schengen area, of which Switzerland is part. Days spent in France and Germany count toward the same total, and so do Schengen days in the 180 days before you arrive. An autumn is close enough to the full allowance that this is not a formality: count it before you book, and count it again if there was a spring in the same year.

The window this book proposes is Wednesday 1 September to Saturday 27 November 2027: eighty-eight days, twelve and a half weeks. It begins while the evenings are still outdoors and ends two days after the Christmas market opens, so the season finishes with the city lighting itself rather than with the greyest week of the year. Running to Monday 29 November would use the ninety days exactly and leave nothing in reserve.

A stay of this length, without work, is an ordinary visit. No residence permit is involved.

Finding a furnished apartment for the autumn is manageable in Basel, and it is not cheap. Those are separate facts and it helps to keep them apart.

The ordinary rental market here is tight; the canton's vacancy rate has hovered below one percent, and a newcomer looking for an unfurnished lease faces a slow, paper-heavy process built for residents. That is not your market. Basel's pharmaceutical companies, research institutes and university bring in people for months rather than years, and a furnished, serviced, month-by-month market exists to house them. You are renting inside that market.

What matters for this stay is that the Fall check found the required stock where it is needed: a furnished two-bedroom on Solothurnerstrasse, inside the target blocks, at about CHF 2,390 a month on a two-month term, with additional operator inventory in Gundeldingen. Stock exists in the quarter, at the length you need, inside the budget.

Where to look. Three channels, in order of usefulness.

The mid-term furnished operators. Blueground rents studios to three-bedroom apartments across the city, including in Gundeldingen. Check City Pop when you book; confirm its locations, unit types and minimum stay for your actual dates. Ask each of them for the whole-period price, in writing.

The Swiss property portals. ImmoScout24 and Homegate both have a furnished filter, and Gundeldingen is a searchable quarter on both. Much of what appears is the operators above; some is private.

Holiday-rental platforms with monthly pricing. Useful for a gap of a week or two, or for a guest. For a whole season, a gamble on one host.

What to look for. An entire furnished apartment with two real bedrooms, one for you and one for guests and a study, at least 65 m², in a building with a lift, with a washing machine in the apartment or reliably available in the building, a full kitchen with an oven, a table that seats six, and ideally a courtyard-facing bedroom on the second floor or above.

Then add the four questions an autumn asks and a spring does not.

Which way do the main rooms face? By the end of October the sun is low and the day is short. A living room that takes the afternoon light is worth more in November than an extra ten square metres.

How is the building heated, and who controls it? Ask how heat is supplied, when it normally comes on, and whether you can control it inside the apartment.

Where does laundry dry? Do not assume balcony drying will remain practical through the second half of the season. A drying room in the cellar, a tumble dryer, or space for a rack indoors is the difference between comfort and a constant damp nuisance.

Is the entrance lit and direct? You will be arriving home in the dark from the beginning of November. A short, lit approach from the tram or from Gundeldingerstrasse matters more than it sounds.

What it costs. Prices move with season and length of stay, and shorter stays cost more per month. The table below is a planning band carried from the spring survey, to be re-quoted for the actual autumn dates; one Fall observation at the required duration is fixed, the CHF 2,390 two-bedroom above. The ceiling is the household's own limit rather than the market's.

APARTMENT	REALISTIC MONTHLY RANGE, ALL-IN
One-bedroom, 50-60 m ²	CHF 1,900-2,500
Two-bedroom, 65-80 m ²	CHF 2,200-3,000
Sensible ceiling	about CHF 3,200 (roughly USD 4,000)

Expect a security deposit, which comes back, and often a one-time cleaning or service fee, which does not. Ask every operator for the full price for the exact dates, in writing, and compare on that figure alone.

The rent will be noticeable; Basel's rents are among the highest in Europe. What it buys, beyond floor space, is certainty. An apartment like this can be chosen from Wellesley in an evening, and the stay can begin with two suitcases and a key code.

The three-month minimum. Some operators take nothing shorter than three months, and three months is almost exactly the Schengen allowance. For a season of twelve or thirteen weeks there are two honest approaches: find an apartment whose minimum fits the dates you want, or take a three-month contract and accept that the unused days at the end cost

roughly a third of a month. On a unit near CHF 2,400 a month, that is about CHF 800, which is worth weighing against the cost of a worse apartment.

When to book. The good units in the interior blocks are few, and operators price a clean two-bedroom in a quiet street accordingly. The booking window for an autumn stay is not yet established; the apartment survey for 2027 will settle it, and Reference will carry the answer.

Formalities. Basel's city tax applies to apartment and short-let accommodation, with separate treatment for stays beyond thirty days; ask the operator exactly how it is charged for your dates and whether it is inside the quoted price. Reference carries the current rule. Ask at the same time whether the apartment issues a BaselCard, which covers local transport for the first part of a stay. Check the status of the EU's ETIAS travel authorisation before flying, and confirm your Schengen count as above.

The Week

This is where Gundeldingen stops being an idea.

An ordinary Tuesday in October begins in the half-dark. In the second half of the month the sun comes up around a quarter to eight and sets before seven. Start with a run from the door while the sky is going from grey to something: south across Gundeldingerstrasse, where the ground begins to rise, and within fifteen minutes onto the farm tracks of the Bruderholz, with the city behind you and the fields ahead, around the water tower and home again. Have breakfast at your own table, which is the thing a hotel cannot give and a furnished apartment does.

Tuesday is the day of the small market at the Gundeldinger Feld, five to eight minutes' walk away, from eight until one: a handful of stands in the yard of a former machine factory, under cover of its buildings whatever the weather is doing. In autumn the stands change faster than you would expect. September is still the end of summer: tomatoes, plums, the first pumpkins. October is apples, pears, squash, wild mushrooms, and the first of the year's new wine. November is roots, cabbages, chestnuts, and late apples that will keep.

Whatever the market does not cover, buy at the supermarkets at the Gundelitor on Güterstrasse, and carry the bags home in five minutes. Do the morning's work at home, in the second bedroom.

Have lunch at home, or take it to a bench at Winkelriedplatz with a coffee from the park café until the terrace furniture goes away. The afternoon is where Basel's scale shows, and it shows more in autumn than in spring, because the afternoon is short and the city is close. Across the footbridge and through the station, the Kunstmuseum is a short tram ride or a fifteen-minute walk; the Rhine, below the Münster, is about twenty-five

minutes on foot; the Fondation Beyeler is at the end of tram 6. Decide on any of them at two o'clock and be there by three, which in November means arriving in the last of the light and coming home in the dark.

Home by tram or on foot through the old town. Shops close at seven or eight; the streets quieten early; dinner happens at home, for two, or for four or six with friends who came by tram from across the city or by train from Freiburg.

What matters in that day is what does not appear in it: no car, no reservation, no errand longer than ten minutes on foot, no moment when the city asks for planning. The friction that remains is the friction you choose: a steeper run, a longer walk home along the river.

The groceries. Make the Coop or the Migros at the Gundelitor the default. The two full-sized supermarkets stand almost face to face on Güterstrasse, open from early morning until eight on weekdays and until six on Saturdays. Pick one, learn its shelves, and use the other when yours is out of something.

Prices are Swiss. Bread, dairy and vegetables are dear; meat costs roughly twice what it costs across the border, and it is the price most likely to change how you cook.

The markets. Two in the quarter, one in the city.

Tuesday, from eight until one: the Gundeldinger Feld. A handful of good producers' stands, in the factory yard.

Saturday, through the morning until one: Tellplatz. The quarter's own market since 2009: seasonal fruit and vegetables in organic or biodynamic quality, bread and pastries, regional producers. The square is closed to traffic on Saturday mornings.

The Marktplatz. The city's main market, in front of the red town hall in the old town, on weekday and Saturday mornings: bigger, more varied, dearer, and worth combining with a trip into town. It is not one of the squares the Herbstmesse takes over, and neither are the quarter's two

markets; several other central market sites do stand down while the fair is up.

What the season puts on the table. Autumn is the best eating of the Basel year and most of it is cooked at home. Game appears on restaurant menus from the beginning of the season and runs into December; chestnut stands appear in the city as the weather turns; the mushrooms are local and briefly excellent; and the year's new wine arrives young and cloudy in September and October, which is the drink of the Markgräflerland and of Alsace as much as of Switzerland. If you cook, this is the season the markets were built for.

Sunday. Swiss shops close on Sundays and public holidays. The exception is the station: the shopping arcade at Basel SBB, with its supermarkets, bakeries and a large pharmacy, opens every day of the year from early until late, eight minutes from the quarter. Sunday bread and milk come from there, or from the German or French side on Saturday.

Holidays, and the ones that are not yours. Basel-Stadt has no public holiday between the first of August and Christmas, so the whole of this season is an ordinary working autumn on the Swiss side. The complication runs the other way across the border: 1 November is a public holiday in France and in Baden-Württemberg, and in 2027 it falls on a Monday. Plan the German shop and the Alsace Saturday around it rather than into it.

The pharmacy. The quarter has its own pharmacies near Güterstrasse. The Bahnhof Apotheke Drogerie inside Basel SBB is open every day from 07:00 to 22:00, and a 24-hour pharmacy stands opposite the University Hospital's emergency department in the old town. Swiss pharmacists advise on minor complaints and sell a great deal without prescription; in a season of short days and shared trains this is the first stop for an ordinary cold, not the doctor.

The German shop. Many Basel households buy part of their groceries across the border, where meat, olive oil, coffee, cleaning products and

toiletries cost substantially less. Tram 8 reaches Weil am Rhein in about thirty minutes; only every second tram continues that far, so the useful frequency is about a quarter of an hour by day. The limits are simple: since January 2025, goods for private use can be brought into Switzerland free of Swiss VAT up to CHF 150 per person per day, with separate quantity limits for meat, one kilogram per person, and alcohol, five litres per person up to eighteen percent. Above that, declare with the QuickZoll app.

The fair. For about a fortnight at the end of October the Herbstmesse occupies seven squares in the centre, which changes the city rather than the quarter. You will notice it in three ways: the centre is crowded in the evenings, some tram stops and market squares are rearranged, and the smell of roast chestnuts and hot fat reaches further than it has any right to. Gundeldingen sits far enough behind the station to be untouched, which is a fair summary of the quarter's relationship with the city's events.

Training

The proposition of this quarter is that the training ground starts at the door. In autumn that promise is tested twice: by mud, and by darkness.

The hill. The Bruderholz is the default. From the Winkelriedplatz blocks, go south across Gundeldingerstrasse and the ground starts to rise at once; fifteen minutes of easy running puts you on the farm tracks at the top, with fields on both sides and the city out of sight behind you. There is a measured two-kilometre loop on the plateau and a measured eight-hundred-metre loop around the water tower, both part of the canton's published training routes, and there is the water tower itself, a thirty-six-metre brick tower from 1926 that you can climb on an ordinary day.

The hill has an autumn character worth knowing. On a clear October morning it is the best hour of the day here. On an inversion day the climb may take you toward clearer air above the low cloud, which is a reason to keep going up rather than along; do not count on it. After heavy rain the field tracks are soft to muddy, and a wet November week will make some of them unpleasant in road shoes.

The flat alternatives. Three of them, all reachable with the transport pass.

Margarethenpark, five to seven minutes from the blocks, with a measured eight-hundred-metre loop: the obvious place for repetitions and for a short evening run when the day has run out.

The Rhine, the canton's four-kilometre riverside loop between the Wettsteinbrücke and the Schwarzwaldbrücke: flat, paved and well used. The paved river routes become the obvious dark-weather alternative; use the illuminated central sections, and walk the full evening loop once before relying on it.

St. Jakob and the Birs, a measured two-point-seven-kilometre loop on the eastern edge of the city; and the *Lange Erlen*, three point three kilometres of soft forest path along the Wiese north of Kleinbasel, which is the kindest surface in the city and the best long run of the season.



The softest surface in the city and the right place for your longest runs.

Photograph: Ludovicus Aurelius, September 2026

The light, which is the real constraint. On 1 September the sun is up from ten to seven in the morning until ten past eight at night, and you can run at either end of the day without thinking about it. By the middle of October sunrise is around a quarter to eight and sunset around twenty to seven. The clocks go back on the last Sunday in October, and from that Sunday the evening is gone: sunset moves to a quarter past five, and by the end of November it is at twenty to five, with the sun rising just before eight.

That leaves three honest options for the second half of the season, and you will use all three.

Run in the morning. The mornings hold up better than the evenings; even on 27 November the sun is up by eight, and the hill in the first light is the best thing the season offers.

Run at lunchtime. This is the great advantage of working from the second bedroom. The middle of the day in November is light, often bright above the fog, and entirely yours.

Run in the dark, in the right places. Use the illuminated central river sections and the quarter's own grid, both of which are busy in the early evening. Keep the field tracks on the Bruderholz for daylight, or take a head torch and stay on the surfaced lanes.

Kit. Bring what a New England November needs and expect to use it earlier: a light waterproof shell, long tights, gloves, a hat, reflective outer layers and a head torch. Basel's autumn is wetter than it is cold; two pairs of shoes, so one can dry, is worth the suitcase space.

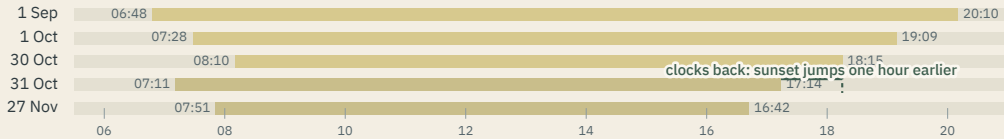
Something to train for. The Basler Stadtlauf is a Basel November fixture since the 1980s. The 2026 edition is five and a half kilometres over two and a half laps, starting on Münsterplatz and finishing at Marktplatz, crossing the Mittlere Brücke and the Wettsteinbrücke through the lit old town, and it draws thousands. It normally falls in late November. The 2027 date is not yet published; if it lands inside the stay it is the right shape of target for a twelve-week autumn, not a distance that reorganises your life, but a reason to keep the mornings honest through the greyest fortnight.

Make the Bruderholz the default from the door, the Rhine the default after dark, and the Lange Erlen the long Saturday. That is the whole training plan, and it survives November, which is the point.

Running and Walking in Autumn



DAYLIGHT ACROSS THE SEASON



→ *The Rhine*

Wettstein-Schwarzwald loop, 4 km, flat

Trams 15 · 16 to the centre, or walk down (25 min)

→ *St. Jakob and the Birs*

2.7 km loop; long flat paths south

Tram or bus to St. Jakob

→ *Lange Erlen*

3.3 km forest loop; softest surface in the city

Tram across to Kleinbasel, then north along the Wiese

→ *Allschwil woods*

3 km forest loop and Vita Parcours

Bus from Binningen, or tram and a short walk

Make the Bruderholz the default from the door, the Rhine the default after dark, and the Lange Erlen the long Saturday.

Base: Kanton Basel-Stadt, surveyed land cover and residential-quarter boundaries (open government data). Street names placed on reconstructed centrelines; confirm on the ground. Outside the canton the survey is not drawn.

Moving

You can pass a whole season here without touching a car, and in autumn that is worth more than it sounds: the weather that makes driving tedious makes a tram network feel like a luxury.

THE TICKET TO BUY

Do this. Buy a personal monthly U-Abo, second class for each of you, when the BaselCard or local-transport period ends, or as soon as wider regional use makes the pass worthwhile. The U-Abo is the regional travel pass of the Tarifverbund Nordwestschweiz. It covers every tram, bus and regional train inside the whole TNW area, which includes the city, the surrounding countryside of Basel-Landschaft, the airport bus to EuroAirport, and the Swiss stations out toward Liestal, Sissach, Laufen and Rheinfelden. It also crosses both borders: it is recognised in zones 1, 2 and 3 of the Regio Verkehrsverbund Lörrach, which means Weil am Rhein, Lörrach, German Rheinfelden and the villages around them, and across the whole Distribus network around Saint-Louis in France. For German destinations in the further RVL zones, a U-Abo holder buys a connecting ticket for the additional zones rather than a full fare.

It does not cover French railways. On SNCF trains the U-Abo takes you only as far as Basel St. Johann station and no further onto French territory, so anything into Alsace by train needs its own ticket. The same applies to German trains beyond the Lörrach zones: the regional trains up the Rhine valley toward Müllheim and Freiburg are a separate purchase.

The price is a single flat fare for the whole area, and the non-resident rate is higher than the subsidised rate residents pay. Take the monthly version for each month of the stay. The case for it is range rather than arithmetic on city tram rides: one pass covers the city, the whole of the Northwest

Swiss network, the airport bus, the Baselbiet, the German zones around Weil am Rhein and Lörrach, and the French network around Saint-Louis, and it removes the ticket decision from ordinary regional life for three months. TNW's own guidance is that an adult monthly pass becomes worthwhile after roughly eleven days of two one-zone trips a day, at the resident tariff; a visitor pays the higher rate and should think in terms of reach rather than break-even.

Two practical points before you buy. Visitors with an address for the stay can buy the non-resident U-Abo, but the current tourist guidance requires registration and purchase at a transport company's sales outlet rather than online; confirm the mechanism and the tariff for 2027.

And your accommodation may issue a BaselCard for the first part of the stay, which covers local public transport in Basel. It does not solve cross-border or wider regional travel, so the U-Abo remains the pass this season is built on; but it may change when you start it. Confirm the long-stay BaselCard and the city-tax treatment with the apartment before deciding.

For single journeys before the pass starts, buy a ticket in the SBB Mobile or TNW apps, or at the green ticket machines at every stop.

TRAINS

Basel SBB is one of the great railway stations of Europe, and it is your local station. From it:

- Zürich HB: intercity trains roughly every half hour, about 53 minutes.
- Zürich Airport: a direct train about once an hour, about an hour and a quarter; otherwise via Zürich HB.
- Bern, Lucerne, Lausanne, Geneva, Lugano: direct intercity trains through the day.
- Freiburg im Breisgau: about 45 minutes by German long-distance train, a little over an hour by regional train.

- Colmar and Strasbourg: French regional trains from the French platforms at Basel SBB.
- Paris: TGV Lyria, about three hours.

For intercity trips inside Switzerland, buy in the SBB Mobile app; advance Supersaver fares are substantially cheaper than walk-up fares on many routes. If you expect to take more than a handful of long Swiss train journeys, compare the cost of a temporary Half Fare travelcard for visitors against your plans before you arrive.

WALKING AND CYCLING

Most movement will be on foot. The footbridge over the tracks, the Passerelle, becomes the daily route to everything north: the station, the old town, the river, the museums, the airport bus, the trains. Allow six to eight minutes from Winkelriedplatz to the station concourse.

Basel is a cycling city, flat along the Rhine and hilly only at the edges. If you want a bicycle, rent one by the month from a shop rather than relying on sharing schemes. In autumn, ask for mudguards, a proper lock and working lights before you ask for anything else, and expect to use the tram instead on the wettest fortnight of November.



Basel is a cycling city, flat along the Rhine and hilly only at the edges.

Photograph: Ludovicus Aurelius, September 2026

WHAT AUTUMN CHANGES

Three things, none of them large.

The evening commute is dark from the end of October. Trams run the same in the dark, but the walk from the stop is the part you will feel. This is another argument for the interior blocks, where the walk is short.

Wet leaves and early frost make the cobbles and the tram rails slippery in the old town and on the bridges. Walk the painted surfaces, not the rails.

Timetables change in December, after this season ends. The Swiss annual timetable change falls in the second week of December, so the season you are proposing runs entirely inside one timetable. Building works can still alter individual lines at short notice; check the app rather than the printed plan when a line looks wrong.

DRIVING, OCCASIONALLY

For the rare day a car is wanted, rent one at Basel SBB or at EuroAirport. If your trip is entirely in France or Germany, renting on the French side of EuroAirport or in Weil am Rhein can be simpler and cheaper. Swiss motorways require a vignette, which Swiss rental cars carry. Parking in Gundeldingen is scarce and regulated; a car kept at the apartment is a nuisance. Rent it for the day and give it back.

The City Beyond the Door

The chapter above was about getting around. This one is about which parts of Basel stop being places you visit and become places you use, and what changes between the second week and the twelfth.

The footbridge. Everything north of Gundeldingen begins with the Passerelle, the long covered bridge over the tracks into Basel SBB. It is the most-used route of the season: to the old town, the river, the museums, the airport bus, the trains, and the walk-in clinic. Six to eight minutes from the Winkelriedplatz blocks to the station concourse, and after the first week it will feel like a corridor in your own house. In November it is also the dry route, which is not nothing.

The old town. Beyond the station, up the gentle slope past the Elisabethenkirche and down into the medieval centre: the Barfüsserplatz, the red town hall on the Marktplatz with the city's main market in front of it, the lanes climbing to the Münster. It is small enough that ten weeks is long enough to know it rather than to have seen it. From the end of November the Christmas lights come on in the main streets, and the same walk becomes a different walk.

The Rhine. The terrace behind the Münster looks straight down on the river, and the steps below it lead to the water. On the far bank, Kleinbasel's riverside promenade is where the city sits in the evening when the weather turns. The small cable ferries cross between the banks for a few francs. They continue on winter schedules after the clocks change, with some services weather-dependent. The river is not an attraction in Basel. It is the city's living room, and by October it is part of your week: the place you walk on a Sunday when the light is low and the water is high.



The river is not an attraction in Basel. It is the city's living room.

Photograph: Ludovicus Aurelius, September 2026

The museums. The Kunstmuseum Basel, one of the oldest public art collections in the world, is on the edge of the old town, a short tram ride or a fifteen-minute walk from the station. The Fondation Beyeler is in Riehen, at the end of tram 6. The Museum Tinguely sits on the Kleinbasel bank. In Weil am Rhein, across the German border, the Vitra Campus gathers buildings by Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Tadao Ando and Herzog & de Meuron, and it is inside the U-Abo area.

None of this needs planning. Museums matter here because you can decide at two o'clock on a Tuesday to walk into one, and in the second half of the season that decision gets easier to make: the afternoons are short, the galleries are warm, and the city's cultural life moves indoors at exactly the moment you need it to.

Kleinbasel. Across the Mittlere Brücke, the other half of the city: flatter, busier, more mixed, with its own streets of shops and restaurants and the long promenade by the water. Five minutes by tram from the old town, and where the evening goes when it wants somewhere livelier than Gundeldingen.

The autumn in the city's calendar. Three things will happen around you rather than to you.

The Herbstmesse, for about a fortnight from the Saturday before 30 October: the oldest fun fair in Switzerland, spread across the inner city, opened at noon with a bell rung from the tower of the Martinskirche. In 2027 that means 23 October to 7 November, with the Petersplatz market running to the 9th.

Swiss Indoors, which runs 23 to 31 October in 2027, overlapping the opening of the Herbstmesse; the Baloise Session belongs to the same autumn cultural period, with its 2027 dates still to be confirmed.

The Christmas market, from 25 November 2027 on Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz, which opens in the last days of this season and changes the temperature of the whole centre.

What the city does not have. Mountains at the door. The Black Forest, the Jura and the Vosges are all visible from the Bruderholz and all an hour or so away. For an autumn that needs high ground every week, this is the wrong city, and Innsbruck was the right one. What Basel has instead is a hill you can run up before breakfast and three countries you can be in before lunch.

The Fall

The three months are different enough to describe separately. In an average year, Basel has about 160 hours of sunshine in September, about 107 in October and about 65 in November; roughly 70, 74 and 65 millimetres of rain; eight or nine wet days in September and about ten in each of the other two months. The mean temperature falls from about 15 degrees to about 11, and then to about 6.

SEPTEMBER

Late summer, with the city back at work. The days are long enough to be unremarkable: on the first of the month the sun is up from ten to seven until ten past eight, and there are still thirteen and a half hours of it. The Rhine still has swimmers in the first half of the month. Terraces are still outdoor rooms. The markets are at their best of the year, with the last stone fruit and the first pumpkins on the same stall.

This is the month to establish the ordinary: the supermarket you use, the market stand you like, the running route from the door, the tram you take without thinking. Do the big regional Saturdays now, while the light is long. And take the evenings outdoors while they are still offered; by the end of the month sunset is at half past seven and moving fast.

Pack for: late-summer clothes, one warm layer, a light rain shell.

OCTOBER

October is the hinge of the season.

It is the month of colour, harvest and new wine on both sides of the border; The Harvest Country sets out where to go and what it costs to get there. The city's own calendar fills at the same time: Swiss Indoors from

the 23rd in 2027, the Herbstmesse from the same Saturday, and the restaurants putting game on the menu.

And the light goes. On the first of October the sun rises at half past seven and sets at ten past seven; by the middle of the month it is a quarter to eight and twenty to seven; and on the last Sunday the clocks go back and the evening ends an hour earlier overnight. Nothing about that is gradual, and it is the single most important thing to plan around. The week after the change is the week to have something arranged: guests, a trip, a concert, a long Saturday somewhere with a view.

Pack for: layers, a waterproof shell, proper shoes, gloves for the hill in the morning.

NOVEMBER

The test, and the reason Basel was chosen over a prettier autumn.

By the middle of the month the day is nine and a quarter hours, the sun rises at half past seven and sets at five to five. Fog is the classic November weather of the Swiss plateau and the Rhine valley; some days start grey and stay grey. The rain is not heavy but it is frequent. The month does not look like the photographs of autumn, because the photographs were taken in October.

What remains is the ordinary week, which is the thing this whole book is about. The trams, the station, the shops, the markets, the pharmacies, the clinics, the museums, the pool of regional trains leaving every hour for somewhere else. The mornings are still runnable, the middle of the day is still light, and the city does not stop working because the weather has stopped performing.

Then, at the end of the month, the city begins deliberately making light of its own: the Christmas market opens on 25 November in 2027, the lights go up in the main streets, and the last days of the season look nothing like the middle of it.

Pack for: a warm coat, a waterproof, a hat and gloves, indoor shoes, and the expectation of using all of them.

September to settle; October to live; November to prove it.

The Harvest Country

This is the chapter the spring book did not need.

For two months of this season the country around Basel is doing the one thing it is best at. The vineyards begin within sight of the city on three sides, September and October are the harvest months around Basel, though the exact picking weeks move with the year, and the villages that bring it in are close enough that going to see it is a Saturday, not a trip. What makes it ordinary rather than exceptional is the network: the same station and the same pass you use all week reach a surprising amount of it.

So this chapter is organised by what it costs to get there, because that is what turns a nice idea into something you do four or five times.

THE RULE

Your monthly pass covers the whole of the Northwest Swiss network, the German zones immediately across the border, and the French bus network around Saint-Louis. It stops at two edges. On the German side it is recognised in RVL zones 1, 2 and 3; beyond those, into the wine villages of the middle Markgräflerland and up into the Black Forest valleys, you stay inside the same regional network and buy a connecting ticket for the extra zones, from the driver, from a machine or in the app. The arrangement exists because you hold the pass; no additional Half-Fare-style reduction applies to the connecting fare, and the fare is small. The return is not symmetrical: coming back from Germany, buy a local ticket in euros as far as the national border, and the pass covers you again from there. On the French side the pass covers buses and the tram, but not the railway: French trains carry their own ticket from the moment they leave Basel.

WHERE	WHAT YOU BUY
The Swiss country: Baselbiet villages, the Jura foothills, Liestal, Sissach, Laufen	Nothing. The pass covers it
Ötlingen and the vineyards above Weil am Rhein; Lörrach and its valleys; Rheinfelden and Grenzach-Wyhlen	Nothing. RVL zones 1 to 3
Saint-Louis and the Sundgau villages on the Distribus network, including Leymen by tram	Nothing
Efringen-Kirchen, Bad Bellingen, Schliengen, Kandern, Schopfheim, the Wiese valley beyond Lörrach	Outward: pass plus a connecting ticket for the further zones. Return: a local ticket in euros to the border, then the pass
Müllheim, Freiburg, the Kaiserstuhl	A separate German regional ticket
Mulhouse, Colmar, the Alsace wine route, Strasbourg	A separate French ticket, bought with the journey
Zürich, Bern, Lucerne, Lausanne	A Swiss intercity ticket; buy Supersaver fares in advance

GERMANY: THE MARKGRÄFLERLAND

The nearest vineyards are the closest thing this season has to a free lunch. Above Weil am Rhein, the village of Ötlingen sits on its hill with vines below it and the whole Rhine plain in front. Getting there is tram 8 to Weil am Rhein and then bus 12 up to the village; both are inside the pass area, so the whole outing costs nothing beyond what you already hold. Walk the vineyard hill, have lunch, and come back the same way. Check the bus timetable for your day before you go.

Behind it the Markgräflerland runs north along the foot of the Black Forest: Efringen-Kirchen, Bad Bellingen, Schliengen, and the villages of the Kander valley behind Kandern. These are in the further RVL zones, so

they cost the pass plus a small connecting ticket. This is Gutedel country, the light white wine of the region, and the harvest and the village festivals that follow it belong to September and October.

Further north the network changes hands. Müllheim, the Kaiserstuhl and Freiburg are a separate German ticket, and worth it: Freiburg is under an hour on the fast trains, the market in front of its Münster runs six mornings a week, and it is the one candidate city of the six you can go and inspect in an afternoon.

FRANCE: THE SUNDGAU AND THE ALSACE WINE ROUTE

The nearest French country is inside the pass and almost nobody uses it. The Sundgau begins immediately across the border: low hills, ponds and villages, with the bus network of Saint-Louis reaching Hégenheim, Blotzheim, Kembs and Sierentz, and tram 10 running out through Leymen, where a ruined castle stands above the village and the walk up takes half an hour. All of this is covered.

The wine route is the famous thing, and it is a train ticket. French regional trains leave Basel SBB from the French platforms: Mulhouse in about twenty minutes, Colmar in about forty-five. Colmar is the natural base for a wine-route Saturday, and from it the villages are reached by local bus or by bicycle. In October this country is doing exactly what the photographs promise, and the same journey in late November is a different and quieter proposition, with the vines bare and the villages beginning to think about Christmas.

Two practical notes for the French side. The first is the holiday: 1 November, a Monday in 2027, is Toussaint, a statutory holiday in France; check opening hours rather than assuming them. The second is the shopping: a French Saturday is also a supermarket Saturday, and the customs limits in The Week apply to what comes back across the border.

SWITZERLAND: THE BASELBIET AND THE JURA

Inside the pass, and underused by visitors because it is not on any tourist route. South of the city the land rises into the Baselbiet: orchards, cherry country, small wine villages, and then the first folds of the Jura. Liestal, Sissach and Laufen are all ordinary train journeys, and the villages behind them are reached by postbus. The walking here is the best in the immediate region: long ridge paths with the Alps visible on a clear day, and beech woods that turn in the second half of October. Mountain lifts are separate. The Wasserfallen cable car above Reigoldswil is the example to remember: the pass takes you through the network to Reigoldswil, and the lift itself has its own fare, on which network subscriptions are not valid. It runs a reduced timetable in winter and can close for maintenance, so check it for your date.

The Swiss autumn calendar in these villages is smaller and less advertised than the German and Alsatian one, which is part of the pleasure.

HOW TO USE THE SEASON

Four kinds of Saturday, and you will want all four.

The short one. Tram 8 and bus 12 to Ötlingen, or tram 10 to Leymen: a walk up through vines or woods, lunch, and home by mid-afternoon. This is the outing that survives bad planning and short days.

The middle one. A connecting ticket into the Markgräflerland or up the Wiese valley, for a harvest festival, a village walk or a wine cellar.

The long one. A French train to Colmar or a German train to Freiburg, leaving after breakfast and back for dinner.

The one that fits November. When the vines are bare and the light is short, the same networks reach the covered markets, the thermal baths at Bad Bellingen, and the museums of Freiburg and Mulhouse. By the second half of the month the network also begins producing Advent destinations before your own season ends: Freiburg's Christmas market opens on

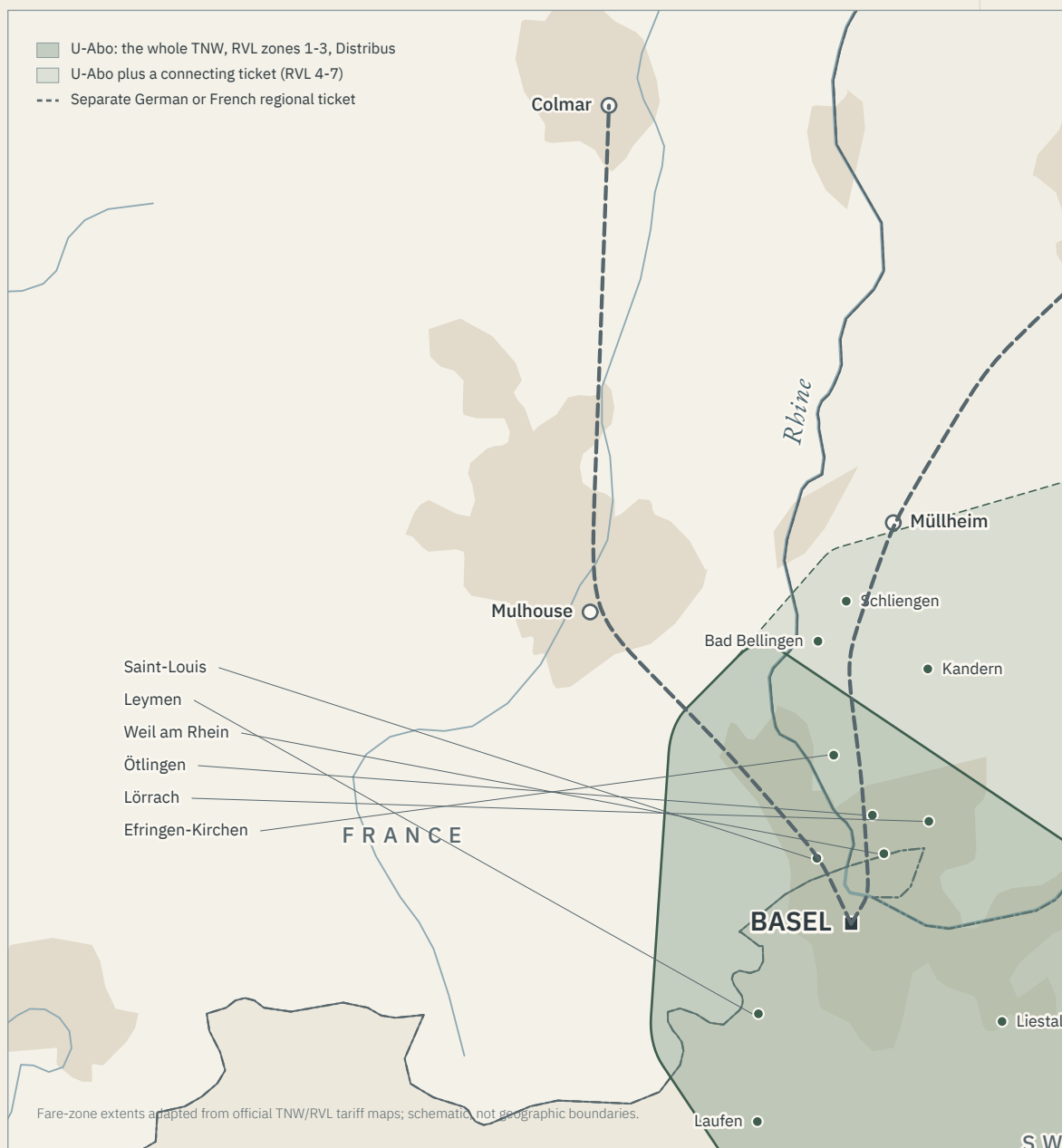
18 November in 2027, a week before Basel's. The Alsatian markets keep their own calendars; check them for the year.

Do this. Take the first two Saturdays of the stay for the near country, while the light is long. Keep one long journey for October, when the autumn landscape is doing the most work. And keep one for the second half of November, when going somewhere for the day is the thing that makes the month move.

CONFIRM BEFORE GOING

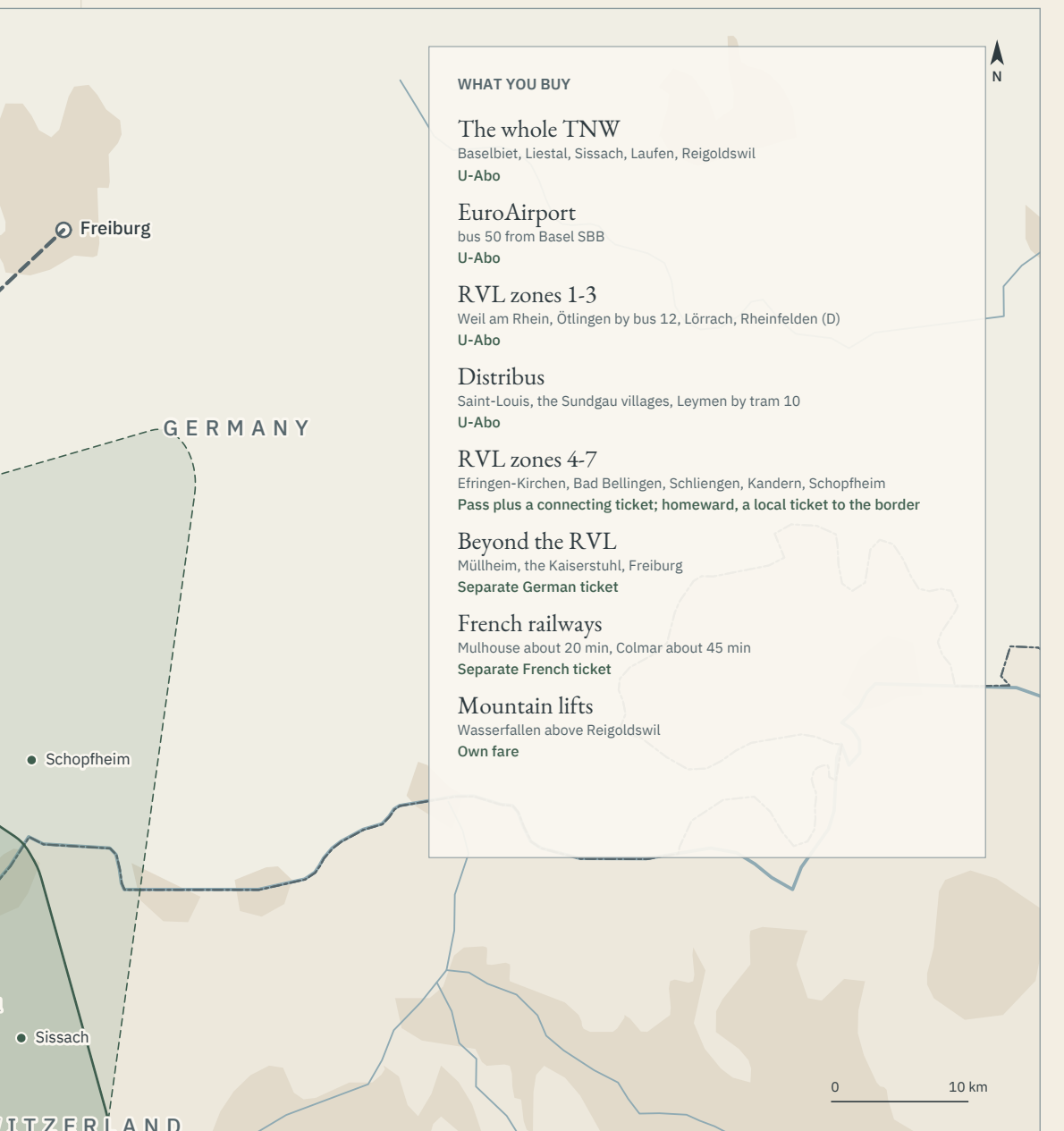
Harvest and festival dates for 2027 are published locally in late summer; check the village or tourist-office pages, and the picking season itself, for the weekend you want. Cellar opening hours outside festival weekends are short and often by arrangement. Sunday service in the villages can be much thinner; check the actual timetable before going.

The Harvest Country



The same station and the same pass you use all week reach a surprising amount of it.

Base: Natural Earth (public domain). Rail, tram and bus lines schematic; journey times as given in this book.



WHAT YOU BUY

The whole TNW

Baselbiet, Liestal, Sissach, Laufen, Reigoldswil

U-Abo

EuroAirport

bus 50 from Basel SBB

U-Abo

RVL zones 1-3

Weil am Rhein, Ötlingen by bus 12, Lörrach, Rheinfelden (D)

U-Abo

Distribus

Saint-Louis, the Sundgau villages, Leymen by tram 10

U-Abo

RVL zones 4-7

Efringen-Kirchen, Bad Bellingen, Schliengen, Kandern, Schopfheim

Pass plus a connecting ticket; homeward, a local ticket to the border

Beyond the RVL

Müllheim, the Kaiserstuhl, Freiburg

Separate German ticket

French railways

Mulhouse about 20 min, Colmar about 45 min

Separate French ticket

Mountain lifts

Wasserfallen above Reigoldswil

Own fare

Leaving Basel

Three kinds of departure matter here: the regional Saturday, the European few days, and the flight home. Basel does all three from one station and two airports, and the autumn changes the reasons rather than the mechanics.

Germany, half an hour. Tram 8 runs from Basel SBB through the old town and Kleinbasel to the German border. Tram 8 reaches Weil am Rhein in about thirty minutes; only every second tram continues that far, which gives a service of about a quarter of an hour by day. Weil has the supermarkets, the Vitra Campus and, behind it, the hills of The Harvest Country.

France, twenty minutes. Tram 3 crosses the border to Saint-Louis, where the bakeries, the pharmacies and the supermarkets are French and the prices are French. Further out, the Petite Camargue Alsacienne nature reserve near Saint-Louis is a good place for a long, flat walk with a French café at the end of it, and it holds its interest in November when the vineyards do not.



Tram 3 passes the Spalentor on its way to Saint-Louis.

Photograph: Ludovicus Aurelius, September 2026

Switzerland, under an hour. Zürich is about 53 minutes by intercity train, roughly every half hour. Bern, Lucerne, Lausanne and Lugano are direct. Paris is about three hours by TGV Lyria. In autumn the mountain trips need more thought than they would in June: the high passes begin closing, and the best Swiss weekends of the season are lake and foothill weekends rather than alpine ones.

The local airport. EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg is a curiosity of European history: an airport on French soil, run jointly by France and Switzerland, with a Swiss sector and a French sector under one roof and a customs road linking the Swiss side directly to Basel. From Gundeldingen, it is a bus stop. Walk to Basel SBB, cross to the north side, and take bus 50: every seven to ten minutes from about half past four in the morning until midnight, about twenty minutes, covered by the pass. Leave home forty minutes before you want to be at the terminal. A taxi from the city costs

about CHF 50. On arrival, follow the signs for the Swiss sector to reach the bus.

EuroAirport handles close to nine million passengers a year and serves about a hundred destinations, most of them in Europe. Lisbon, Porto, London, Barcelona and dozens of other cities are one flight from a bus stop twenty minutes from the station. It also carries the links to both of your transatlantic alliances: Air France to Paris and KLM to Amsterdam, the SkyTeam channels that connect to Delta, and Lufthansa to Frankfurt and Munich, Austrian to Vienna and Turkish to Istanbul, the Star Alliance ones.

The way home. Do this. Make the Zürich nonstop the default route home. SWISS operates nonstop between Zürich and Boston; current schedules show as many as two daily rotations. Confirm the actual Fall 2027 timetable before booking. The flight takes about seven and a quarter hours eastbound and eight and a quarter westbound. It is the only nonstop between Boston and the Basel region, and it is Star Alliance, where United Gold gets you lounge access and priority handling.

From the quarter: walk to Basel SBB and take the direct train to Zürich Flughafen, which runs about once an hour and takes about an hour and a quarter, or change at Zürich HB in the other hours for about the same total time. The airport station is beneath the terminal. From kitchen to gate is about two and a half to three hours, most of it in a Swiss train beside the Rhine. Coming the other way, the overnight flight from Boston lands in Zürich in the morning, and Basel is reached before lunch.

When fares or schedules favour it, or when the Delta journey is wanted, fly Delta to Amsterdam or Paris and connect on KLM or Air France to EuroAirport. One stop instead of none, but the last leg lands twenty minutes from home. It suits the arrival leg particularly well.

What autumn asks you to check. Airline schedules change with the season, and the winter timetable begins in late October. Frequencies, departure times and the second daily Zürich rotation may differ in

November from what is published for September. Confirm the actual schedule for your dates before booking, and expect the first weather delays of the year from the middle of November.

Border formalities. The EU's Entry/Exit System has been fully operational since 10 April 2026. At the first EES entry, allow time for biometric registration: passport data, a facial image and fingerprints; subsequent crossings use the stored record for verification.

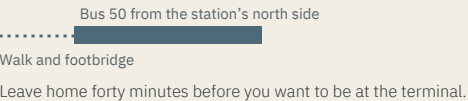
One caution. Days in France and Germany count toward the same ninety Schengen days as days in Basel do. The border is open for you; the calendar is not. And Swiss customs are real: bring purchases home within the value and quantity limits, or declare them in QuickZoll.

PLATE 5 *Airports*

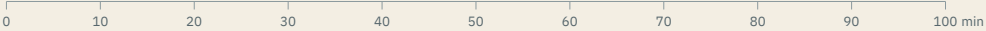
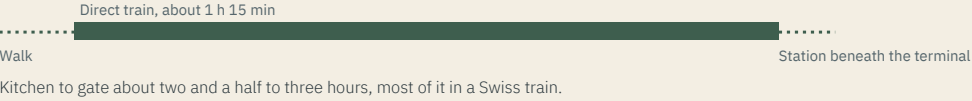


KITCHEN TO GATE · TRAVEL TIME, DOOR TO TERMINAL

EuroAirport



Zürich Airport



From kitchen to gate is about two and a half to three hours, most of it in a Swiss train beside the Rhine.

Base: Natural Earth (public domain). Rail, tram and bus lines schematic; journey times as given in this book.

Having People Come

A season is long enough that people will come, and autumn is the season they will come for. Basel makes this easy in a way that deserves to be stated plainly: guests can reach you from almost anywhere in Europe without a car, entertain themselves for a day while you work, and leave without being driven anywhere.

Getting them here. A direct flight into EuroAirport and a bus, or a train into Basel SBB from Zürich, Paris, Frankfurt or Milan, and then eight minutes on foot over the footbridge. Nobody needs collecting. Nobody needs directions beyond the name of the quarter.

Where they sleep. The second bedroom is the reason the apartment specification asks for two. Count the chairs and ask about the oven when you take the apartment; six at a table is the difference between hosting and apologising. For longer or overlapping visits, the quarter has hotels near the station and furnished rooms of the same kind you rented.

What they do while you work. This is autumn's advantage over spring. The museums are indoors and excellent, the old town is ten minutes away, the Rhine walk is at the bottom of the hill, and the whole of The Harvest Country is a day trip with a ticket bought at the machine. A guest with no plan and a transport pass has a good day here without your help.

What to do with them when you are free. A Saturday in the Markgräflerland or in Alsace; a Sunday walk on the Bruderholz with lunch at the top; the Christmas market at the end of November; the Herbstmesse if their week falls in the fair's fortnight, which is the one time the city puts on a spectacle of its own.

The one hard week. Treat the fair fortnight at the end of October as a high-demand period for accommodation; guests coming then should book early, or stay with you.

What to tell them to bring. After the clocks change: a warm coat, a waterproof, and shoes that survive a wet hill. Before the clocks change: the same, minus the coat.

Being Looked After

A season is not planned around being ill. If either of you is ill, the next step should already be obvious.

The walk-in clinic. Medbase Basel Bahnhof, at Centralbahnstrasse 3 on the north side of Basel SBB, is a walk-in practice open every day of the year, with laboratory, X-ray and ECG on site. It is ten to twelve minutes from the Winkelriedplatz blocks, and it is the right first stop for anything that is not an emergency: a chest infection that will not clear, a sprain, a fever that has gone on too long.

The second walk-in. Basemed, near Claraplatz in Kleinbasel, is open weekdays and Saturdays, and is the alternative if the station clinic is full.

Emergencies. Two adult emergency departments hold the cantonal mandate: the University Hospital in the old town, about fifteen minutes away by tram, and St. Claraspital in Kleinbasel. Both are open all hours. For an ambulance, call 144. The European emergency number 112 works. For police, 117.

When you are unsure. The Medizinische Notrufzentrale, on 061 261 15 15, answers day and night and will tell you where to go, which doctor or dentist is on duty, and whether you need to go at all. Save it in both phones on the first day.

Pharmacies. The quarter has its own, near Güterstrasse. The Bahnhof Apotheke Drogerie inside the station is open every day from 07:00 to 22:00. A 24-hour pharmacy stands opposite the University Hospital's emergency department. Swiss pharmacists handle a great deal that would need an appointment elsewhere, and in a season of cold trains and shared air that matters more than usual.

Vaccination and prescriptions. Influenza is a winter illness in Switzerland, and the recommended vaccination window begins in the middle of October and runs until the wave starts; participating pharmacies offer it in most cantons, with a national vaccination day in November. If you want one during the stay, confirm the Basel location and the appointment rule for that season. Refill regular prescriptions before you travel and carry the generic names; Swiss pharmacies dispense a good deal without a prescription, but not everything.

Insurance. Confirm before you go that your policy covers Switzerland, France and Germany, that it covers outpatient treatment as well as hospital admission, and how it handles payment: Swiss practices expect payment at the time, and you reclaim afterwards.

144

Ambulance

112

European emergency

117

Police

061 261 15 15

Medical advice line · 24 h



Know exactly where to go if you need a doctor.

Base: Kanton Basel-Stadt, surveyed land cover and residential-quarter boundaries (open government data). Street names placed on reconstructed centrelines; confirm on the ground. Outside the canton the survey is not drawn.

Language

German is the official language; Basel speaks Baseldytsch, a Swiss German dialect that is not the German you learned. Standard German is understood everywhere and used in writing, and English is widely spoken; Basel-Stadt's measured English proficiency is well above the Swiss average, which is itself high.

For this household the practical position is comfortable. English carries most ordinary encounters. Your French, which is good, becomes useful as soon as you cross onto the French side: Saint-Louis, the Sundgau and the Alsace Saturdays, which is a large part of the cross-border country in this book. German is the language of courtesy in the quarter: *Grüezi* or *Gutet Morge* on the way in, *Merci vielmal* on the way out, and the effort registers.

What autumn adds. The season is indoors more than spring is, which means more counters, more shops, more small conversations in warm rooms. Two things are worth learning properly in the first fortnight: the words for the market stalls, so that the exchange over the vegetables is a real one, and the phrases for a pharmacy and a doctor's desk, which you would rather not be learning on the day you need them.

USEFUL WORDS

SWISS USAGE	MEANING
Grüezi / Guete Morge	Hello / Good morning
Merci / Merci vielmal	Thank you / Thank you very much
Adieu / Ade	Goodbye
Gundeli	Gundeldingen, as locals call it
Drämmli	Tram (Basel usage)
Passerelle	The station footbridge
U-Abo	The regional monthly travel pass
Wohnen auf Zeit	Furnished rental for a limited period
Notfall	Emergency
Apotheke	Pharmacy
Herbstmesse	The autumn fair
Sauser / Neuer Süsser	The year's new wine, drunk young

November

Everything before this chapter describes a life. This one asks whether it survives the month that stops helping.

Here is what November actually is. The day is nine and a quarter hours in the middle of the month and under nine hours at the end of it; the sun rises around half past seven and sets before five. In an average year there are about sixty-five hours of sunshine in the whole month, ten days of rain, and a mean temperature around six degrees. Fog is the classic weather of the plateau and the Rhine valley at this time of year, and some days begin grey and stay grey. Nothing in that is dramatic. It is simply the removal of every advantage a place can borrow from its weather.

So take the preceding chapters one at a time.

Home still works. The apartment was chosen for the second half of the season rather than the first: the main rooms take what light there is, the heating is a question you asked before signing, the laundry dries indoors, and the walk from the tram is short and lit. A furnished apartment in a dense quarter is at its best in bad weather, because everything you need is inside ten minutes and the rest of it is inside four walls you chose.

The week still works. The supermarkets at the Gundelitor remain part of the ordinary week, and the two quarter markets still give the week its rhythm: the Tuesday market in the factory yard under the buildings, the Saturday market at Tellplatz in the rain. Food is the thing autumn does best here, and November is the month of roots, cabbage, chestnuts, game and the last apples. The cooking gets better as the weather gets worse, which is not a consolation but a fact about this part of Europe.

Training still happens. The mornings hold: the sun is up by eight even at the end of the month, and the hill in first light is the best thing the season

offers. The middle of the day is yours, and that is when November is brightest. The lit river routes take the evenings. There is a race in the city in the last third of the month to keep you honest.

Transport still works. Trams and trains are indifferent to the weather and run to the same timetable in fog as in sun. The station is eight minutes away, under cover for most of the walk. The pass still reaches three countries.

The region is still usable. This is where the choice pays. In November the vines are bare and the villages are quiet, but the same networks reach markets, baths, museums and, from the middle of the month, the first Advent towns: Freiburg from 18 November in 2027, Basel itself from the 25th. A month that would be empty in a smaller place is a month of short, cheap, ordinary journeys here.

Guests are still easy. They arrive by train or by a bus from the airport, they entertain themselves indoors, and they are impressed by a city that looks its age in the rain.

Healthcare and language are still ordinary. The clinic is open every day. The pharmacy is open until ten. The phone number is on the fridge. English carries the counter.

That is the whole argument. Not that November in Basel is beautiful, because it is not, and this book will not pretend otherwise. What matters is that nothing in the life described in these chapters depends on the weather being good, and almost everything in it is within ten minutes of the front door or one train from the station.

The season does not end because Basel becomes bright again. It ends as the city starts making light of its own: the Christmas market opens on the 25th, the streets go up in lights, and the last days look nothing like the middle of the month.

Do this in November. Keep the mornings. Cook. Book one journey a week, however short. Use the middle of the day. And stay through the last week, until the city has turned the lights on.

*It is dark by five; it is ten minutes to everything; the
trains still leave.*

PART FOUR

The Choice

What Basel Does Not Solve

A guide that only praised its city would be useless. Here, plainly, is what you are accepting.

Basel is expensive. Rent is the largest part of it, and food is the second. Cook more, eat out less, and use the border intelligently; that is not a hardship, but it is a rhythm the city will impose.

Gundeldingen is useful, not pretty. It is a dense nineteenth-century grid behind a railway station, with little green space and no view. The beautiful Basel of the river, the Münster and the old town is across the footbridge, and you will go there constantly; but you will not live in it.



The old town is across the footbridge, and you will go there constantly.

Photograph: Ludovicus Aurelius, September 2026

Freiburg and Innsbruck give better running ground and quieter days. Both were close, and both beat Basel on the two things a runner notices first: what is at the door, and how loud the street is. In Basel you climb fifteen minutes to reach the good ground, and you live in a working quarter rather than a calm one.

The mountains are regional, not at the door. The Black Forest, the Jura and the Vosges are all an hour or so away, and all visible from the Bruderholz. For an autumn that wants high ground every week, this is the wrong city and Innsbruck was the right one.

November is dark and grey. Nine hours of daylight in the middle of the month, about sixty-five hours of sun in the whole of it, fog on the plateau,

and rain about one day in three. The book's case is that the life still works; the book does not claim the month is lovely.

Sundays close. Swiss shops shut on Sundays and public holidays, and the station arcade is the exception rather than the rule. It takes a fortnight to build the rhythm of buying on Saturday, and then it stops being noticeable.

The clean nonstop home runs through Zürich. EuroAirport is excellent for Europe and twenty minutes from the station, but the clean nonstop to Boston leaves from Zürich, an hour and a quarter away by train. That is a good trade, not a free one.

German is manageable, not effortless. English carries most encounters and French helps across the border, but you will spend three months in a city whose everyday spoken language is a dialect you do not have. The effort is small and the ceiling is real.

None of these is a reason not to go. All of them are reasons to go knowing.

What to Do

The whole book, as a sequence.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

1. Check the Schengen calendar. Ninety days in any rolling 180-day period, France and Germany counted in the same total, entry and departure days included. Count your own history before fixing dates, especially if a spring was taken in the same year.
2. Quote the actual apartment. Ask each operator for the all-in price for your exact dates: rent, deposit, fees, cleaning, city tax, minimum stay. Compare on that figure alone.
3. Choose the interior blocks. Winkelriedplatz, between Dornacherstrasse and Gundeldingerstrasse. Ask which way the main rooms face, how the heating works, where laundry dries, and whether the way in is lit.
4. Book the transatlantic route. The Zürich nonstop as the default, with the Delta one-stop through Amsterdam or Paris as the alternative when fare or timing favours it. Confirm the autumn 2027 schedule before you commit.
5. Confirm insurance. Switzerland, France and Germany; outpatient as well as hospital; and how payment and reimbursement work.
6. Settle the transport question. Ask the apartment about the BaselCard and the city tax, then decide when the U-Abo takes over. Check the 2027 tariff and where a non-resident can buy it.

THE FIRST WEEK

7. Arrive on 1 September. Collect keys, walk the quarter, photograph any damage, and test the oven, the washing machine, the Wi-Fi and the heating.
8. Learn three things. The supermarket you will use, the market stand you like, and the run from the door. Everything else follows from those.
9. Save the numbers. 144, 112, 117 and the medical line 061 261 15 15, in both phones, on the first day.

THE SEASON

10. Use September and October for the harvest country. The near villages inside the pass on short Saturdays; one longer journey into the Markgräflerland or Alsace while the landscape is doing the most work.
11. Plan the week after the clocks change. The last Sunday in October takes the evening away overnight; have something arranged for the week that follows.
12. Keep the mornings in November. Run early or at midday, book one journey a week, and cook.
13. Stay through the last week, until the Christmas market opens and the city turns its lights on.

Where the Answer Changes

Five places did not win, and each of them still answers a different version of the question. Change the proposition and the answer changes with it.

If quiet and the ground at the door matter more than reach and the apartment, Freiburg or Innsbruck comes back into the conversation. Both give a calmer daily life and better running from the front door than a dense quarter behind a station. In Freiburg the price is the door itself: the free housing market is at its hardest exactly when the winter semester arrives, which is when this season begins. In Innsbruck the price is the third month and the way home.

If the autumn is explicitly mountain-first, Innsbruck is the natural alternative. High ground is not regional there; it is at the end of the street. Accept a season that turns earlier and harder, and a journey home that takes more doing.

If the object is a wine-country autumn with the harvest at the doorstep, Colmar is a different proposition altogether. The harvest is on the doorstep rather than at the end of a train ride. The ordinary week is smaller, the hospital system is smaller, and November is a small town in the fog, which is either the point or the problem.

If proximity to North America matters more than anything else, Quebec City changes the geometry. No Atlantic crossing, a short hop through Montreal, a road that can be driven at need, and an autumn that is the reason people go there. The cost is a health system that asks more patience, and a winter that arrives before the season ends.

If the desired life is lake and Alps, Annecy answers a different question. A lakeside promenade most cities would envy, mountains behind the town, and Geneva under an hour away. The return path is less resilient than the

stronger gateways in the field, which matters across three months of people coming and going.

And if the whole proposition changed, so would this book. If the autumn were four weeks rather than twelve, the housing argument that decided it would weigh far less. If nobody were coming to visit, the second bedroom and the hosting depth would stop mattering. If we needed a car, the calculus of a quarter with no parking would look different.

These are not second choices. They are answers to other questions.

Reference

PROPOSED DATES

Wednesday 1 September to Saturday 27 November 2027. Eighty-eight days. The ninetieth day from 1 September is 29 November. Verify against your own Schengen history before booking; the rule is ninety days in any rolling 180-day period, and both entry and departure days count.

ADDRESSES AND NUMBERS

WHAT	WHERE	NOTES
Emergency, ambulance	144	112 also works
Police	117	
Medical advice line (MNZ)	061 261 15 15	24 hours; doctors, dentists, pharmacies
Medbase Toujours Basel Bahnhof	Centralbahnstrasse 3 (north side of Basel SBB)	Walk-in, every day; 061 500 11 00
Baselmed	Near Claraplatz, Kleinbasel	Walk-in, Mon-Fri and Sat
Universitätsspital Basel, emergency	Old town (Petersgraben)	Adults, 24 hours
St. Claraspital, emergency	Kleinbasel	Adults, 24 hours
24-hour pharmacy	Opposite the University Hospital emergency department	Nights and holidays

WHAT	WHERE	NOTES
Bahnhof Apotheke Drogerie	Basel SBB	Every day 07:00-22:00
Coop Gundeli	Güterstrasse 190	Mon-Fri 07:00-20:00, Sat 07:00-18:00
Migros Gundelitor	Güterstrasse 180	Mon-Fri 08:00-20:00, Sat 08:00-18:00; post counter
Gundeldinger Feld market	Dornacherstrasse 192	Tuesday, 08:00-13:00
Tellplatz market	Tellplatz	Saturday morning, until 13:00

TRANSPORT AT A GLANCE

JOURNEY	HOW	TIME
Winkelriedplatz blocks to Basel SBB	On foot via the footbridge	6-8 min
Winkelriedplatz blocks to the old town	Tram 15/16, or on foot	8 min / 20 min
Basel SBB to EuroAirport	Bus 50 (covered by U-Abo)	about 20 min, every 7-10 min
Basel SBB to Zürich Airport	Direct train hourly, or via Zürich HB	about 1 h 15 min
Basel SBB to Zürich HB	Intercity, about every 30 min	about 53 min
Basel SBB to Weil am Rhein	Tram 8, every second tram (U-Abo)	about 30 min, about every 15 min
Basel SBB to Saint-Louis	Tram 3 (U-Abo)	about 20 min
Weil am Rhein to Ötlingen	Bus 12 (U-Abo)	check the timetable
Basel to Mulhouse	TER, French ticket	about 20 min
Basel to Colmar	TER, French ticket	about 45 min
Basel to Freiburg	German train, separate ticket	45 min to 1 h

TICKETS

The U-Abo covers the whole TNW area, the airport bus, RVL zones 1 to 3 in Germany and the Distribus network in France. Outward beyond RVL zone 3, buy a connecting ticket for the further zones; homeward, buy a local ticket in euros to the border. French railways and German trains outside the RVL network need their own tickets, as do Swiss intercity journeys beyond the TNW. Mountain lifts, including the Wasserfallen cable car above Reigoldswil, charge their own fares.

THE SEASON'S CALENDAR

WHEN	WHAT
1 September	Season begins
23-31 October	Swiss Indoors
23 October - 7 November	Herbstmesse (Petersplatz market to the 9th)
Sunday 31 October	Clocks go back; sunset moves from 18:15 to 17:14
Monday 1 November	Toussaint in France, Allerheiligen in Baden-Württemberg; an ordinary working day in Basel
Late November	Basler Stadtlauf, date to be published
18 November	Freiburg Christmas market opens
25 November	Basel Christmas market opens
27 November	Season ends

Basel-Stadt has no public holiday between 1 August and Christmas.

DAYLIGHT

DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DAY
1 September	06:48	20:10	13 h 22
1 October	07:28	19:09	11 h 41
30 October	08:10	18:15	10 h 05
31 October	07:11	17:14	10 h 02
15 November	07:34	16:53	9 h 19
27 November	07:51	16:42	8 h 51

HOUSING BUDGET

APARTMENT	PLANNING RANGE, ALL-IN
One-bedroom, 50-60 m ²	CHF 1,900-2,500
Two-bedroom, 65-80 m ²	CHF 2,200-3,000
Sensible ceiling	about CHF 3,200 (roughly USD 4,000)

A planning band carried from the spring survey, to be re-quoted for the autumn dates. One fixed autumn observation: a furnished two-bedroom on Solothurnerstrasse at about CHF 2,390 a month on a two-month term.

CUSTOMS, FOR THE GERMAN AND FRENCH SHOP

Goods for private use may be brought into Switzerland free of Swiss VAT up to CHF 150 per person per day, with quantity limits including 1 kg of meat per person and 5 litres of alcohol up to 18 percent. Declare above that in the QuickZoll app.

CONFIRM BEFORE BOOKING

- Apartment availability and terms for your dates: all-in price, deposit, fees, minimum stay, city tax.
- The 2027 U-Abo tariff, where a non-resident buys it, and whether the apartment issues a BaselCard.
- Autumn 2027 airline schedules: the Zürich nonstop, and the Delta, KLM and Air France connections.
- ETIAS status at the time of travel, and your own Schengen count.
- Current opening hours of the shops, markets, museums and pharmacies named here.
- Harvest and village festival dates for 2027, and cellar and bus timetables for the day you go.
- The Basler Stadtlauf date, the Baloise Session dates, and the Wasserfallen winter timetable.
- Swiss customs limits and the Basel-Stadt holiday table. These change before you book. Check them at the last responsible moment.

Method Note

Six candidate neighbourhoods were examined for a September-to-November seasonal stay. Basel emerged as the only candidate established ahead of all five others. Freiburg and Innsbruck could not be honestly separated from one another; Quebec City, Colmar and Annecy likewise remained unordered among themselves. The result is therefore a partial order rather than a conventional ranking.

Candidates shown together in this book are unordered, not tied. Where the evidence did not establish an order, none has been invented.

The detailed audit is preserved separately.

Colophon

The Home Index · Fall

Basel · Gundeldingen

An autumn away · September to the end of November

Research current through the date on the title page. Time-sensitive details for autumn 2027 are identified in Reference and should be confirmed before booking.

Hoc est opus. Et satis est.