



Dean Wallis (second from left) makes running both fun and interesting; left, the Lallikonig



Who runs Basel?

One of the most common questions raised by someone considering a running tour is “am I fit enough to join in?” Refreshingly the answer from the founder of Basel Running Tours, Dean Wallis, is almost always yes!

By Dean Wallis | My motto is, if you like running – even a little bit – then you’ll love a running tour. Imagine exploring a city at your own pace, seeing the sights, discovering secrets usually only known to the locals, while keeping fit at the same time.

At Basel Running Tours, we’ve designed a selection of tours, the routes of which take in many jewels of Basel’s heritage. The guide runs at your speed and there are rest stops every five minutes at key points of interest. Here you will learn about the landmarks and their history, as well as current city events and ideas for getting the most out of your stay in Basel.

As one of our customers put it, the toughest part of the tour is choosing which of our brightly coloured T-shirts to wear!

Waiting to be explored

Evidence of Basel’s 2,000-year history of settlement can be found all over the city – from the Celtic ruins on Rittergasse to the Roman well-shaft in Münsterplatz. Classic Basel symbols like the Lallikonig (pictured above) are easy to miss, unless you know where to find them. Major facts, such as Basel being the epicentre of one of Europe’s biggest earthquakes, or that the Birsig River runs under the city remain unknown by many visitors and even some residents.

Obviously these things are available for any visitor to discover independently; however, if you prefer to experience them with a friendly, well-informed guide and a pair of trainers, then that’s where we come in.

We regularly change the tours as we uncover new secrets, hidden treasures or specific themes of interest. Currently we offer a choice of tours from the classic ‘Basel Highlights’ and ‘Running the Rhine’ tours to our exciting, new ‘Food and Wine’ tour.

Fun for everybody

Tours can range between 1km (for children) and 15km, with most requests being for tours of around 4km to 6km. Ultimately, the client dictates both the distance and speed of the run.

Feedback for our tours has been great so far. Initially, we aimed at relocated families, short-stay business travellers and tourists; however, we’ve found that many long-time residents also get a great deal from them. One customer on the Bergli Birsig tour recently told us, “After almost three years in Basel I knew a third of what I’ve just heard on a one-hour tour”.

We are also seeing our tours become attractive as corporate entertainment. There are only so many dinners to which you can invite visitors, so this is a great alternative. We’ve also been involved in team building exercises, lunchtime clubs and pre-hire orientation.

Although these tours are new to Basel, the idea has been around for a while, with companies offering Running Tours in London, New York, Rome and around 40 other cities worldwide. Basel is particularly well suited to the concept, because it is compact, bursting with history and has many kilometres of beautiful waterside paths.

So what are you waiting for? Grab your trainers and come run Basel with us!



BASEL RUNNING TOURS

Get your running shoes on!

Basel Running Tours

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Upcoming events:

Saturday, July 3: Bergli Birsig Tour

Tuesday, July 13: Basel Highlights Tour

Saturday, July 17: Running the Rhine Tour

Saturday, August 7: Basel Food & Wine Tour

Check out our website for additional dates and more details.