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Carnival in Basel, Basel Region

Festivals in the height of winter.

With more colour than any other festivals, come and join in traditional Swiss carnivals that have been celebrated since the Middle Ages.

A few days suspended in time

Carnival is the uninterrupted festival – a few days of madness when music takes over the streets and where everyone can become someone else. The tradition of carnival comes alive across the whole of Switzerland. The “drey scheenschte Dääg” (the three most spectacular days) see an entire parade of floats in Basel, fife and drum players filling the streets of Lucerne for the city’s “5th season”, and the lively Rabadan festival in Bellinzona. Swiss carnivals are brought to life by hundreds of organisations and companies that spend the whole year preparing to put on a show at this time of year.

At the carnival in Solothurn, the mayor is even relieved from duty and the town adopts the name of Honolulu for the few days of the festival. There are countless towns and cities across Switzerland where various processions, dances, marching bands and fanfares lure you into celebrating the festival and joining wild dances.

Morgenstreich in Basel

The carnival in Basel is the largest in Switzerland and starts at 4 o'clock in the morning to the drumming sound of “Morgenstreich”. Over the three days, some 20,000 people put on their costumes and masks and liven up the streets with music and magnificent lanterns.



Tip 1

MySwitzerland.com
Webcode: **A36438**

The festival of the south

His Majesty, the King, takes possession of the keys to the city and gets the Rabadan carnival underway in Bellinzona. Marching bands and long masked processions spread good cheer in the streets. The party culminates with the distribution of risotto.



Tip 2

MySwitzerland.com
Webcode: **B28450**

Fritschi's country

It's Fritschi, the figurehead of the Lucerne carnival, his wife and son who lead the festival. Bands adorned with costumes and masks provide a theatrical spectacle during the parades and rope the public into their frolics. Festivities continue late into the evening with various dances.



Tip 3

MySwitzerland.com
Webcode: **A36453**

Network Switzerland:

Hotel de la Paix***, Lucerne

Register until 28.2.2013 at MySwitzerland.com/aso and win a two-night stay for two people at Typically Swiss Hotel de la Paix in Lucerne to experience the city's carnival in 2014.



MySwitzerland.com
Webcode: **A54742**

A collaboration between Switzerland Tourism and the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)



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