

Switzerland

Swiss Basel

Basel in German, Bâle in French, or Basilea in Italian, the city is located on the border of three countries along the Rhine River in the north west of the country, and it is the third most populous city in Switzerland, after Zürich and Geneva. The city of Basel is proud of its traditions, ancient culture, and civilized openness. In addition to being an important center for the arts, music, and architecture; it is also a major industrial center for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in Switzerland. A popular location for international exhibitions and conferences, I've had the opportunity to visit Basel every April for the last twenty-two years to attend the world's largest watch and jewelry exhibition. Starting from scratch, it was in this city that I took my first steps into the world of jewelry and gems. Bottom line, I knew absolutely nothing about the field and I had no one to teach me the secrets of the trade. Back then we didn't have the internet or Google to give us all the shortcuts.

Anyways, through these articles on Basel, I would like to engage my reader with my own experiences of this city. Coincidence played a vital role in getting to know Basel through the Swiss bank representatives, who we used to call the "Bag Bankers." They got this name because they were like traveling salesmen who always showed up carrying the same black briefcase. Until recently they would only visit Kuwait, hold excited negotiations, make enormous deals, and then leave; working in Kuwait without being authorized, without paying fees, and without paying taxes. I still remember a friend of mine telling me that in addition to oil, one of Kuwait's biggest exports is liquidity. Of course, the situation has not changed. Foreign banks are still engaged in the same activity, but with a simple change that