

Basel and its Swiss/French railway stations

Afternoon guided tour on Friday, 2 February 2024 from 1400 hrs (in german language)

Dear SGE members

At short notice, our company will be given the opportunity of an individual guided tour on the history of the Swiss and French railway stations in Basel. We would like to invite you to participate.

As is well known, the first public railway line in Switzerland was not built in the Limmat Valley but three years earlier as the terminus of the Chemin de fer de Strasbourg à Bâle (StB) in Basel. After a brief temporary stop outside the city, the first railway station in Switzerland opened at the end of 1845. The industrial age thus met the Middle Ages, as Basel still had a well-guarded city wall and a separate city gate had to be built for the new means of transport. In 1860, the Alsace railway then moved to the joint station with the Swiss Central Railway (SCB) at its current location. One of the three wooden station halls from this period has now been returned to its original purpose at the Dampfbahn-Verein Zürcher Oberland (DVZO) in Bauma. After a further temporary period, the Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) opened the railway station in its current form in 1907.

As part of a two-hour guided tour with Thomas Hofmeier, Head of Education & Outreach at the Basel Historical Museum and founder of secretBasel, we look at the traces left behind by Switzerland's first railway station and explore the question of what prompted Basel to build a railway gate in the city walls. We find out what connects the Barfüsserkerche with Basel's railway stations and why people now drink coffee in a former morgue. Finally, we will enjoy the recently completed restoration of the reception building and the steel hall construction in today's railway station, which was carried out in accordance with monument conservation aspects.

The tour is free of charge for SGE members, guests are welcome and pay a contribution of CHF 25 on site. The number of participants is limited and registration by e-mail with full address and mobile phone number is mandatory. Places will be allocated in the order of registration and participants will receive confirmation by e-mail. The meeting point is at 14:00 at St Johannis-Tor at the tram stop of the same name on line 11 to St-Louis border.

Together with my fellow board members, I am looking forward to a great guided tour and an exciting dialogue

Roger Bennet
Präsident & Leitung Archive

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Eisenbahngeschichte SGE
c/o bahnarchiv.ch