

practical information



How to get there:

Bern has excellent train connections from numerous European cities, incl. high-speed train links from Paris (France), from Hamburg/Frankfurt (Germany) and from Rome/Milan (Italy). And there are departures at least hourly to most destinations within Switzerland (it takes 56 min. to Zurich, 51 min. to Basel, 1 h 41 min. to Geneva).

The huge train station ① is centrally situated and provides the **tourist office** ① (031 328 12 12), pharmacy, currency exchange, lockers, rest room/shower, fast food, restaurants, shopping, bike rental, supermarkets, and taxis (031 371 11 11). Another tourist office ② is next to Bärenpark (bear park) where they present a **multimedia show** about the history of Bern in different languages, every 20 minutes – the show costs CHF 3.– or CHF 1.– for students or if you hold a Swiss Pass. @ Internet at Kramgasse 47 (Weblane) and at your hostel (for guests only).

www.berninfo.com
www.cityhunter.ch
www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

③ Bern Backpackers/Hotel Glocke, Rathausgasse 75 (031 311 37 71) »www.bernbackpackers.ch; ④ Hotel Landhaus, Altenbergstr. 6 (031 348 03 05) »www.albertfrida.ch; ⑤ Berne Youth Hostel, Weihergasse 4 (031 326 11 11) »www.youthhostel.ch/bern; Etap Hotel Bern Expo, Am Guisanplatz 4 (031 335 12 12) »www.etaphotel.com



save money

⑥ **Bikes to borrow free of charge** (they also have flyer electrobikes, scooters and skateboards). Pick up at Milchgässli (next to Bahnhofplatz), at Hirschengraben and at Zeughausgasse, open daily from May (Hirschengraben from June) until the end of October, 7.30 am – 9.30 pm (before May pick up at Milchgässli only!). Bikes are free of charge for 4 hours, every additional hour costs CHF 1.– Deposit of CHF 20.– and passport or ID required. **Bern's best summer deal!**



On an inflatable dinghy tour through Bern

Bern is perhaps the most immediately charming city in all of Switzerland. The country's political and diplomatic capital has been listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage**. For all its political status, it is a tiny city and the attraction of the place rests in its ambience. You could spend days just café-hopping and wandering the streets with its arcades, street fountains and small shops. Einstein developed his special theory of relativity here and it was from here that the famous Emmentaler cheese was first sent on its way to conquer the world.

highlights

② **Bear Park** (Bärenpark). The bear is Bern's heraldic animal. The Bear Park houses 4 brown bears. Open daily, entry is free of charge. Bus 12 to station Bärengraben.

⑦ **House of Parliament** (Bundeshaus). Seat of Swiss government and parliament. **Free guided tours** (duration 45 min.), Mon–Sat at 9, 10, 11 am and at 2, 3 and 4 pm, plus Thursdays 5, 6 and 7 pm (no tours during parliamentary sessions; then access to the public galleries only). Passport or ID card required! Check-in at the latest 25 minutes before the start of the tour (security entrance, east side of Parliament Building)! In view of the large number of visitors it is advisable to sign up the day before (031 322 85 22).

⑧ **Münster-Cathedral** from 1421. A prime example of Swiss late Gothic architecture.

Highest spire in Switzerland: 344 steps above the entrance, 100 meters high, from where you can enjoy an **excellent view!** Mon–Sat 10 am–5 pm, Sun 11.30 am–5 pm, (latest entry to climb the spire is 30 min. before closing time). Free admission to the cathedral, entry to the spire costs CHF 4.–.

⑨ **Swiss Alpine Museum**. History of the Swiss Alps. Special exhibits, multimedia show, audio-visual information in 4 languages. Mon 2–5.30 pm, Tue–Sun 10 am–5.30 pm. Admission CHF 12.–, students CHF 8.–. Helvetiaplatz 4, cross the bridge at Casinoplatz.

⑩ **Zoological Gardens Dählhölzli**. Attractive woodland setting. A unique selection of European and exotic fauna. Open daily 8 am–6.30 pm, CHF 10.–, students CHF 8.–. Take bus 19 to Tierpark.

⑪ **Museum of Fine Arts** (Kunstmuseum). One of the most distinguished collections in Switzerland: Italian, Swiss and French art, i.e. Picasso, Kandinsky, Matisse. Hodlerstrasse 12. Tue 10 am–9 pm, Wed–Sun 10 am–5 pm, closed on Mon. Admission CHF 7.–, students CHF 5.–.

⑫ **Einstein House** at Kramgasse 49 is the apartment where Einstein lived from 1903 to 1905. It's now a small museum featuring pictures which provide an insight into Einstein's years in Bern. Daily 10 am–5 pm, admission CHF 6.–, students CHF 4.50. (the **Historical Museum** at Helvetiaplatz 5 presents a permanent exhibition under the name "Einstein Museum"; open Tue–Sun 10 am–5 pm; CHF 13.–, students CHF 8.–.)

⑬ **The Rose Garden** is a large park with a wonderful view of the old town and the river loop and has a nice restaurant (take bus no. 10 or walk, it's only 5 minutes from Bear Park).

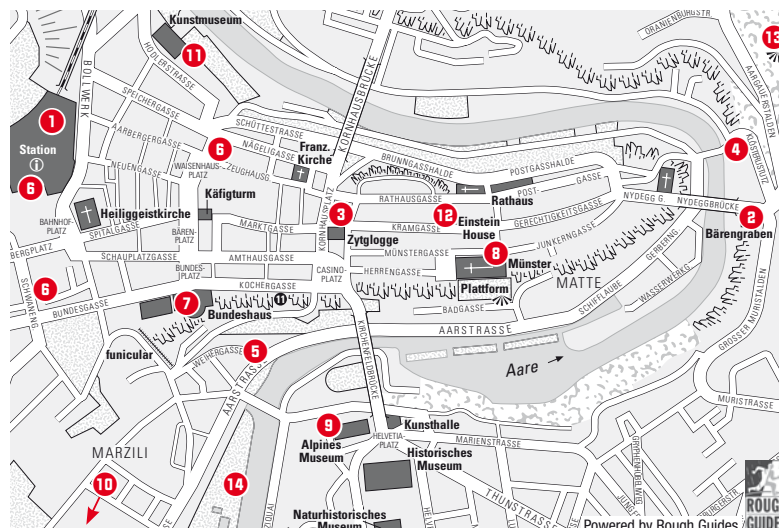
The **Zentrum Paul Klee** is much more than a traditional fine arts museum. Approx. 4,000 paintings, watercolors, drawings, puppets, sketches and other works of Paul Klee's are on display. Take bus no 12 from the railway station until "Paul Klee Zentrum". Tue–Sun 10 am–5 pm, Mon closed. Admission CHF 18.–, students CHF 16.–.

Bern's **Rope Park** offers you an exceptional, active adventure in close touch with nature, with 50 platforms of various degrees of difficulty. Open daily (April–October) from 10 am–7 pm (Oct until 6 pm); admission CHF 36.–, students CHF 31.–. From the train station take tram 3 or 5 or bus 19 or 28 until Thunplatz.

On really sweltering days cool down in and on the shore of the beautiful meandering **river Aare**. In the popular free public bath **Marzili** ⑭ you can float down the river (good swimmers only). A great spot for a self-catering barbecue is the park **Eichholz** (right next to the river – this is where people from Bern spend many of their summer days).

Mt. Gurten. Popular day-trip destination! Panorama of the city and the Alps. Reached in 25 min. by tram no. 9 to Wabern. Get off at Gurtenbahn. From July 14th–17th the legendary Gurten **open-air festival** is held up here (see events on page 17!)

And when it rains? Bern's six kilometers of **arcades**, with shops, restaurants and cafés, are weather-proof. Window-shopping is fun! Or visit the **Hammam & Spa** at Weihergasse 3 (next to the youth hostel) and enjoy the spirit of oriental bathing. Open daily (Tue, women only!). Or spend the day at **Westside**, the recently opened leisure and shopping complex offering a wide range of shopping varieties and the **Bernaqua Adventure Pool & Spa with fitness** (a superb oasis of relaxation and well-being).



events

April 28th & 29th	Huge flower market at Bundesplatz
May 14th	Bern Grand-Prix. Biggest running event in German speaking Switzerland!
June 19th	Swiss Frauenlauf (Women's Race – with almost 13,000 participants)
June 23rd	Herbert Grönemeyer at the Stade de Suisse
July 14th–17th	Surten-Festival. This open-air music festival on Mt. Gurten is legendary for its great atmosphere whatever the weather! Bring your sleeping bag and sleep outside or in the huge tent!
End-July – end-Aug	Open-air cinema at Grosse Schanze (university)
Aug 1st	Swiss National Day – party in the old town and on Mount Gurten
Aug 11th–13th	Buskers Bern. Street musicians' festival in the old town
Aug 11th–24th	Circus Knie at Allmend
Aug 19th–21st	Fair and fun at Bümpliz-Chilbiplatz
Market	
Tue & Sat	Fruit, vegetable and flower market at Bundesplatz and at Bärenplatz (and on Bärenplatz daily from May until October)
Tue, Thu & Sat	Traders' market at Waisenhausplatz (May until October)
First Sat monthly	Crafts market at Münsterplatz
First Sun monthly	Flea market and brocante at Reitschule
Third Sat monthly	Flea market at Mühleplatz in the Matte (May–October)

entertainment, fun & parties

- **Landhaus** (Altenbergstrasse 4–6, next to Bärengraben) has a beautiful restaurant and serves good food!
- **Restaurant Lötschberg** (Zeughausgasse 16) is a cute, modern place to be at, chat the night away, try some tasty, reasonably priced Swiss food, meet locals, taste local wine and listen to local DJs! »www.loetschberg-aoc.ch
- **Reitschule**, a former riding school at Neubrückestrasse 8 (031 306 69 69) near the main station, is the place for alternative culture: bar, small restaurant, disco, concerts, parties and art.
- **Bierhübeli** – bar/brasserie/concerts at Neubrückestrasse 43 (031 301 92 92). Check daily press for latest concerts. »www.bierhuebeli.ch
- **Gaskessel**, Sandrainstrasse 25 (031 372 49 00), has concerts, live music and discos. »www.gaskessel.ch
- **Dampfzentrale**, Marzilistrasse 47 (031 311 63 37). Electro, jazz, funk and soul, art exhibitions and dance performances. »www.dampfzentrale.ch
- **Shakira**, Maulbeerstrasse 3, is a dance hall with a variety of Latino rhythms.
- **Wasserwerk**, Wasserwerkstrasse 5 (031 312 12 31), is a famous nightspot in Bern. Concerts, dance, bars, disco, after hours and a lot more fun. »www.wasserwerkclub.ch
- **Comeback-Bar** (Rathausgasse 42) is a disco for gays, and **Samurai** (Aarberggasse 35) is a hip place for gays, lesbians & heteros to party the night away.
- **Bar Aux Petits Fours**, at Kramgasse 67, is a small gay bar.
- The bar **Les Amis** (Rathausgasse 63) is a famous spot to prepare for your night out. Downstairs is the cosy concert location **Wohnzimmer**.
- **Kairo** (Dammweg 43) and **Lorraine Brasserie** (Quartiergasse 17) are cozy, laid back restaurants and concert locations where young and freaky people of Bern meet.
- **O'Bolles** (Bollwerk 35) is a nice restaurant and café to hang out at and chat the night away.
- **Markthalle** (Bubenbergrplatz 9). The old market hall offers food and drinks from all over the globe.
- Check out the **Kornhauscafé** and the **Kornhauskeller**, with its medieval ambience, at Kornhausplatz 18.
- **Art'café/Eclipse** (Gurtengasse 6). Hits, party music, disco and bar.
- **Propeller-Bar** (Aarberggasse 30) is another disco and bar.
- **Turnhalle/PROGR** at Speichergasse 4, – one of Bern's hip places.
- **Club Bonsoir** (Aarberggasse 33-35). Recently opened club hosting international DJs, musicians and artists »www.bonsoir.ch
- **Liquid Club** (Genfergasse 10). This modern and elegant location represents urban clubbing on 4 floors. »www.liquid-bern.ch
- **ISC Club** (Neubrückestrasse 10). International Student Club of the University of Bern. International DJs and party every weekend »www.isc-club.ch

BERN BACKPACKERS – Hotel Glocke

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VISIT BERN... UNESCO world heritage sight

- 6 kilometers of arcades with cafes and shops let you explore the old town...even when it rains...
- free bikes, free swimming pools – float down the Aare River...
- interesting bars, clubs, culture centers and cellar theatres
- Einstein house, Paul Klee museum, Münster cathedral, ...

... and explore Switzerland from here! Easy day trips to Interlaken,
Jungfrau top of Europe, Lucerne, Zürich, Basel, Geneva...

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swiss backpackers



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*Price per night/room excl. city tax