

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 i.e.).

The main train station ❶ is centrally situated and provides the ④ **tourist office** (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 ❷ is next to Bärenpark (bear park) – 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

❸ Bern Backpackers / Hotel Glocke, Rathausgasse 75 (031 311 37 71) »www.bernbackpackers.ch; ❹ Hotel Landhaus, Altenbergstr. 6 (031 348 03 05) »www.albertfrida.ch; ❺ 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



Arcades are representatives of Bern



In the centre of 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 and street fountains. 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.

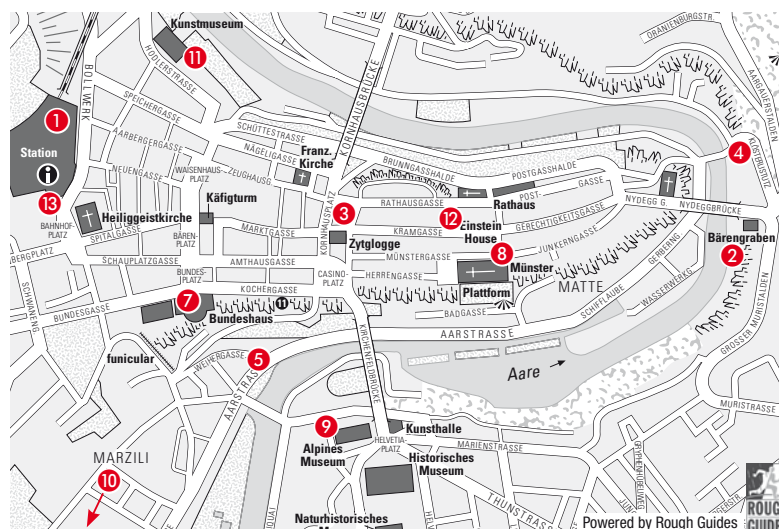
highlights

❸ **Free bikes.** Bikes to borrow free of charge! Pick up at Milchgässli (next to Bahnhofplatz). Open daily 7.30 am – 9.30 pm, deposit required: passport or ID card plus CHF 20.–.

❷ **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.

❷ **House of Parliament** (Bundeshaus). Seat of Swiss government and parliament.

Free guided tours (duration 45 min), Mon – Sat at 9, 10, 11am 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).



❸ **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 – Fri 10 am – noon and 2 – 4 pm, Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 11.30 am – 4 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.–.

❹ **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 10.–, students CHF 7.–. Helvetiaplatz 4, cross the bridge at Casinoplatz.

❺ **Zoological Gardens Dählhölzli.** Attractive woodland setting. A unique selection of European and exotic fauna. Open daily 9 am – 5 pm, CHF 10.–, students CHF 8.–. Take bus 19 to Tierpark.

❻ **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.–.

❼ **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. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm (closed from Dec 24th 09 until Jan 31st 11); 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; Admission CHF 18.–, students CHF 13.–.

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.–.

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.

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!), CHF 42.–. Or spend the day at **Westside**, the recently opened Westside leisure and shopping complex offers a wide range of shopping varieties and the **Bernaqua Adventure Pool & Spa with fitness** (a superb oasis of relaxation and well-being).

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
- **Gaskell**, Sandrainstrasse 25 (031 372 49 00), has concerts, live music and discos. »www.gaskell.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 nightclub 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 to be.
- **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 stands for 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 time every weekend »www.isc-club.ch



View onto the old town, labeled world cultural heritage by UNESCO

events

- Nov 10th** The Bolschoi Don Kosaken in the French church
- Nov 22nd** "Zibelemärit", Bern's most famous traditional onion market in the old town. This great winter market starts in the early morning!
- Nov 27th** Flames of The Dance (Irish dance) at Theater National
- Nov 28th - Dec 29th** Christmas market at Münsterplatz
- Nov 28th - Dec 29th** Christmas market at Waisenhausplatz
- Dec 22nd** The Harlem Gospel Singers at Bern Kursaal
- Dec 31st** New Year's Eve party everywhere in the city!
- Mar 10th - 12th** Carnival. Concerts and much more in the old town
- Mar 18th** The long night of the museums. Cultural happenings (art, lectures, special exhibitions, theatre and culinary surprises), museums open until two in the morning

Etap Hotel - Sleep well at the best Price

BE SMART. STAY SMART.

- ✓ Comfortable rooms with shower/WC, TV
- ✓ Double and bunk bed for up to 3 persons
- ✓ "All you can eat" breakfast for CHF 11.- p.p.
- ✓ Reception open 24/7
- ✓ Just 10 minutes walking distance to the city center (take tram 9 to Guisanplatz)

*Price per night/room excl. city tax

Etap Hotel Bern Expo - Am Guisanplatz 4 - Tel. 031 335 12 12

The room for 1, 2 or 3 persons from CHF 89*

7 hotels in Switzerland and 400 in Europe - www.etaphotel.com

BERN BACKPACKERS – Hotel Glocke

Stay with us in the centre of the old town

8 Minutes walk from the main station.

we offer beds in a DORMITORY from Sfr 34.–, SINGLE ROOMS from Sfr. 72.–, DOUBLE ROOMS from Sfr. 89.–, ...

clean, safe and comfortable! no curfew!
no membership required!

fully equipped kitchen (open 24 hours), laundry facilities,
internet, free lockers, free luggage storage, free W-LAN,
english movies every night, discounts on swiss army knives

VISIT BERN... UNESCO world heritage sight

- 6 kilometers of arcades with cafes and shops let you explore the old town...even when it rains or snows...
- daily Christmas market in December
- 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...

BOOK ONLINE

www.bernbackpackers.ch

Bern Backpackers – Hotel Glocke

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