

# BERNE



Not many cities have managed to retain their historic features quite as successfully as Bern, the capital of Switzerland. The old town of Bern is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and thanks to its six kilometres of arcades - the locals refer to them as 'Lauben' - boasts one of the longest weather-sheltered shopping promenades in Europe. The medieval air of this city with its many fountains, sandstone facades, narrow streets and historic towers is unique. The elevated Rose Garden above the Bear Park and the platform of the 101-metre-high cathedral tower offer the best views of the old town round which the River Aare flows. The former entrenchments and bastions drop down steeply to the river. The boutiques, bars and cabaret stages of the old town, some of which are located in vaulted cellars, and the small street cafes attract locals as well as a lot of tourists. Although Bern has a very good public transport network it is best to explore the city centre on foot.

The Zentrum Paul Klee situated on the outskirts of the city houses the most comprehensive collection of works by the artist Paul Klee. The Albert Einstein House bears testimony to the physics genius' stay in Bern at the start of the 20th century and may ideally be combined with a visit to the Einstein Museum. With the History Museum, Art Museum, Swiss Alpine Museum and Communication Museum Bern offers a very varied range of exhibitions. Bern is the seat of Switzerland's government. The Houses of Parliament (Bundehaus) rise above the city just a stone's throw away from the railway station. The doors to the Houses of Parliament are open to visitors most of the time, and if you're lucky you might even bump into a member of parliament in the streets of the city.

In summer the River Aare provides an opportunity for the ultimate bathing experience; very good, experienced swimmers allow themselves to drift along in the clean Aare while enjoying a view of the Houses of Parliament. The Botanical Gardens are also located along the river, as is the Dählhölzli Zoo and the old Matte district. Bern and bears, the cities heraldic beast, are inseparable. A visit to the Bear Park, habitat of a family of bears, is a must-do. In the squares of the city centre colourful weekly markets present their wares. The Onion Market (Zibelemärit) which takes place on the fourth Monday in November is particularly worth visiting: visitors to the traditional market dedicated to onions start pouring into the city in the early hours.

Set in the heart of Switzerland, Bern is the gateway to the Alps. The capital city may easily be reached by car or by air via the Bern-Belp Airport and bus links to the city centre. Visitors who prefer to travel by train may take advantage of the dense rail network with its direct connections to the major European cities. Bern's central location makes it the perfect base for overnight accommodation and for excursions throughout Switzerland.



## GENERAL INFO:

**Capital of Switzerland**

**Population:** 126,598 inhabitants

**Language spoken:** German

## HOW TO GET THERE:

- Bern Airport - Bern Airport is just 10 km from the city center. The small airport connects Bern with European cities such as London, Berlin and Munich.
- Zurich Airport - Trains depart every half an hour, transfer time is around one hour and 15 Minutes, [www.flughafen-zuerich.ch](http://www.flughafen-zuerich.ch)
- EuroAirport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg - Trains depart every half an hour, transfer time is around one hour and 15 Minutes, [www.euroairport.com](http://www.euroairport.com)
- Geneva Airport - Trains depart every half an hour, transfer time is just under two hours, [www.gva.ch](http://www.gva.ch)

## OPENING HOURS:

- Shops/shopping Monday - Friday: 9 am - 7 pm Saturday: 8 am - 5 pm Late night shopping: Thursday, 9 am - 9 pm
- Banks and currency exchange Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm Saturday: closed
- Public authorities and offices Monday - Friday: 8 am - 12 noon / 1.30 pm - 5pm Saturday: closed
- Bern on youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_JwIASG0xl8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JwIASG0xl8)
- Bern Tourismus, Bahnhofplatz 10a, 3011 Bern, T +41 (0)31 328 12 12, F +41 (0)31 328 12 77, [info@bern.com](mailto:info@bern.com), <http://www.bern.com>

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNESCO world heritage site** – sandstone houses, narrow streets, fountains and the medieval air make this city unique. The capital of Switzerland has many charms. Its quaint old town is framed by the Aare Riverland offers spectacular views of the Alps. With its 6 km of limestone buildings and medieval arcades, its Renaissance fountains with colorful figures, and its beautiful cathedrals surrounded by picturesque rooftops, Bern, founded in 1191, is truly a gem of medieval architecture in Europe. Eleven places are on the roster of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Convince yourself of the uniqueness of these places by visiting them.
- **Arcades** – thanks to the arcades, which extend throughout the town shopping is a delight whatever the weather.
- **Zentrum Paul Klee** – worldwide biggest collection of works by the artist Paul Klee; the cultural centre designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano consists of three wave-shaped building sections.  
Monument im Fruchtländ 3, 3006 Bern, T +41 (0)31 359 01 01, F +41 (0)31 359 01 02, [info@zpk.org](mailto:info@zpk.org), [www.zpk.org](http://www.zpk.org)

- **Bear Park** – watch the famous family of bears frolicking at the Bear Park.  
Grosser Muristalden 6, 3006 Bern, T +41 (0)31 357 15 25, [www.baerenpark-bern.ch](http://www.baerenpark-bern.ch)
- **Clock Tower (Zytglogge)** - The Clock Tower (Zytglogge) was the first western gate of the city (1191 - 1256) and, with its famous astronomical calendar clock built in 1530, is now one of the main attractions of Bern and the oldest clocks in Switzerland.  
Bern Tourism, Bahnhofplatz 10a, 3011 Bern, T +41 (0)31 328 12 12, F +41 (0)31 328 12 77, [info@bern.com](mailto:info@bern.com), [www.bern.com](http://www.bern.com), [www.zeitglockenturm.ch](http://www.zeitglockenturm.ch)
- **Seat of Government** – the Houses of Parliament are one of Bern's landmarks as well as being the seat of the government. A market visit and stroll through the weekly market in Berne on the "Bundesplatz" parliament square naturally has a political touch!  
Guided tours, Bundeshaus / Bundesplatz, 3005 Bern, T +41 (0)31 322 85 22, [www.bundeshaus.ch](http://www.bundeshaus.ch)



## RESTAURANTS

- **Kornhauskeller**  
Fine dining: We are committed to solid, unpretentious, Italian cuisine, with all its regional variations. All our dishes are made with natural, simply prepared ingredients. We take pleasure in our cooking and attach great importance to craftsmanship. Traditional Bernese dishes and the classics of Swiss farmhouse fare are also served at the Kornhaus.  
*Kornhausplatz 18, 3011 Bern, T +41 (0)31 327 72 72, F +41 (0)31 327 72 71, [kornhaus@bindella.ch](mailto:kornhaus@bindella.ch), [www.kornhauskeller.ch](http://www.kornhauskeller.ch)*
- **The Restaurant Schöngrün**  
Located in the beautiful listed Villa Schöngrün immediately adjacent to the Zentrum Paul Klee. Here the quality of the art and architecture meet their culinary match: With Renzo Piano's architecture in their field of vision, chef Werner Rothen's team uses his surprising and sometimes playful creations in order to blend culinary culture and art into an unforgettable total experience. Top-class chefs conjure up their creative dishes for your culinary pleasure. The Restaurant Schöngrün is one of Switzerland's 70 highest-ranking gourmet temples.  
*Monument im Fruchtländ 1, 3006 Bern, T +41 (0)31 359 02 90, [info@restaurants-schoengruen.ch](mailto:info@restaurants-schoengruen.ch), [www.restaurants-schoengruen.ch](http://www.restaurants-schoengruen.ch)*
- **Bistro Steinhalle**  
The bistro, housed in the carefully renovated former lapidary of the Historical Museum, provides a unique setting for a cocktail party with finger food, a convivial Mediterranean à la carte dinner or a quick lunch. The charming ambience is accentuated by the stylish interior and distinctive windows. In summer you may relax and drift to wherever the mood takes you while out on the terrace in the idyllic museum park with its old trees and fairy-tale setting. A visit to the bistro may be ideally combined with an expedition to explore one of the many museums in the Kirchenfeld district.  
*Helvetiaplatz 5, 3005 Bern, T +41 (0)31 351 51 00, F +41 (0)31 351 53 00, [info@steinhalle.ch](mailto:info@steinhalle.ch), [www.steinhalle.ch](http://www.steinhalle.ch)*
- **Zunft zu Webern**  
Our guests enjoy a modern interpretation of traditional Swiss dishes carefully prepared with fresh ingredients. Delicious fresh fish from nearby lakes is a special feature on the menu at the "Wäbere". There are some 120 Swiss restaurants that have been awarded for their excellent fish cuisine. The Tafelgesellschaft zum Goldenen Fisch anonymously tests the dishes at the restaurants. The Zunft zur Webern in Bern has enjoyed golden fish status since 2011.  
*Gerechtigkeitsgasse 68, 3011 Bern, T +41 (0)31 311 42 58, F +41 (0)31 312 20 66, [info@restwebern.ch](mailto:info@restwebern.ch), [www.restwebern.ch](http://www.restwebern.ch)*
- **Restaurant Café des Pyrénées**  
One doesn't primarily go to the Café des Pyrénées for the food alone. But if, while chatting, debating or drinking a toast, you are suddenly assailed by the pangs of hunger, the menu will provide a budget-friendly remedy: hot dishes and snacks, including, in particular, five types of spaghetti, roast meatloaf, and cheese slices. Products from a cuisine that is just as down to earth as are our patrons!  
*Kornhausplatz 17, 3011 Bern, F +41 (0)31 311 30 63, [info@pyri.ch](mailto:info@pyri.ch), [www.pyri.ch](http://www.pyri.ch)*



## SHOPPING

- **Confiserie Eichenberger**

The Confiserie Eichenberger specializes in exquisite confectionery and pastry items and has shops and tea rooms at the Bahnhofplatz and in the old town of Bern. The Bernese hazelnut lebkuchen is a famous tasty treat and a speciality of Confiserie Eichenberger. Delicious truffles, chocolate specialties, cakes, pies and pastries are available in a variety of shapes and flavors. Apart from the tempting desserts, a rich range of small and big snacks provides a big choice for the real hunger. The cozy atmosphere in the cafés invites guests to stay, relax and enjoy for a while. Pastries and petit-fours are served directly at the table. A true culinary delight for all of your senses.

Schauplatzgasse 1, 3011 Bern, T +41 (0)31 311 44 82, [info@confiserie-eichenberger.ch](mailto:info@confiserie-eichenberger.ch), [www.confiserie-eichenberger.ch](http://www.confiserie-eichenberger.ch)

- **Heimatwerk**

Are you looking for an original gift idea with which to make someone's day, or for a suitable souvenir? The Heimatwerk stocks many lovingly crafted items - in many cases quite unique - designed by versatile craftsmen in studios and small enterprises. Nowhere else will you find such a diverse and innovative range of arts and crafts of the highest quality, functionality and excellence of design. Since 1930, the Schweizer Heimatwerk has delighted visitors with its innovative and exciting range along with the tried and true classics – a varied assortment for young and old that includes the latest trends.

Kramgasse 61, 3011 Bern, T+41(0)31 311 30 00, F +41(0)31 311 47 85, [info@heimatwerk-bern.ch](mailto:info@heimatwerk-bern.ch), [www.heimatwerk-bern.ch](http://www.heimatwerk-bern.ch)

- **Markets in Bern**

There is an abundant outdoor market at Bundesplatz, Bärenplatz and Münster gasse on Tuesdays and Saturdays (daily in summer). Here you can buy fresh produce, flowers, cheese, meat, olives and bread. There are also some stands selling hot food. On the other end of the market stalls sell clothing and gift items. There is a monthly Artisan Market during winter at Münsterplatz. The Zibelemärit or Onion Market is a huge tradition in Bern. It occurs once a year in November and the whole city celebrates.