

# Bern

Canton of Berne · Switzerland

## TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



## Overview

Bern is the capital of Switzerland and sits in a tight loop of the Aare river. The medieval old town is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It has long arcades, fountains and sandstone houses.

The city is small and calm. Most visitors spend one or two days here. Bern also works as a base for the Bernese Oberland.

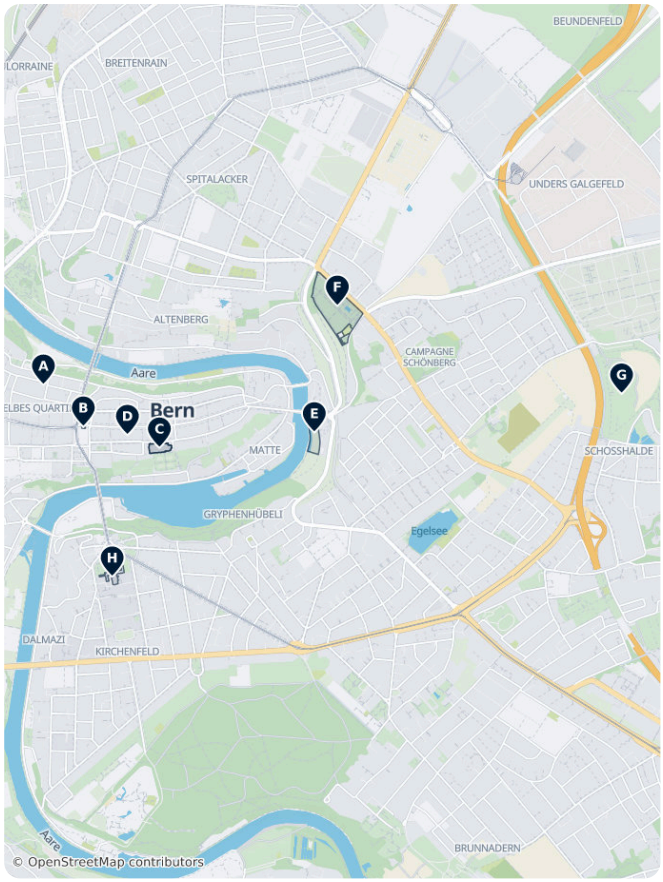
## When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Summer days are warm and people swim in the Aare. September is often dry and mild. Winter is cold and grey, but the Christmas markets in the old town are popular. Rain is common all year.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for watersports | 4° / 11°<br>Feels like 0° | -2° / -9° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| February | Poor<br>Poor for watersports | 6° / 13°<br>Feels like 2° | -2° / -11° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| March | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 10° / 18°<br>Feels like 6° | 1° / -5° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| April | Good<br>Good for cycling | 14° / 21°<br>Feels like 11° | 4° / -2° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| May | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 18° / 25° | 9° / 3° | 18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| June | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 22° / 29° | 13° / 8° | 17 rainy days · Calm winds |
| July | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 24° / 30° | 14° / 9° | 17 rainy days · Calm winds |
| August | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 24° / 31° | 14° / 9° | 15 rainy days · Calm winds |
| September | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 20° / 26° | 11° / 5° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| October | Good<br>Good for cycling | 16° / 23° | 7° / 1° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| November | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 9° / 17°<br>Feels like 6° | 2° / -5° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| December | Poor<br>Poor for watersports | 5° / 12°<br>Feels like 1° | -1° / -9° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

## Top sights




- A Old City of Bern is the main attraction. Its streets are lined with covered arcades about 6 km long in total.
- B Zytglogge Clock Tower is the medieval clock tower. The figures move four minutes before each hour.
- C Bern Minster is a Gothic church with the tallest church tower in Switzerland. You can climb it for views.
- D Einstein House is the flat where *Albert Einstein* lived in 1903 to 1905.
- E Bear park is the bear park beside the river, where Bern's bears live.
- F Rosengarten is a garden above the river with the classic view of the old town.
- G Zentrum Paul Klee is a modern art museum on the east side of the city. It has the largest collection of works by *Paul Klee*.
- H Historical Museum of Bern covers local history and includes an Einstein exhibition.

**Bern – Plan Your Trip**

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

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App Store · Google Play

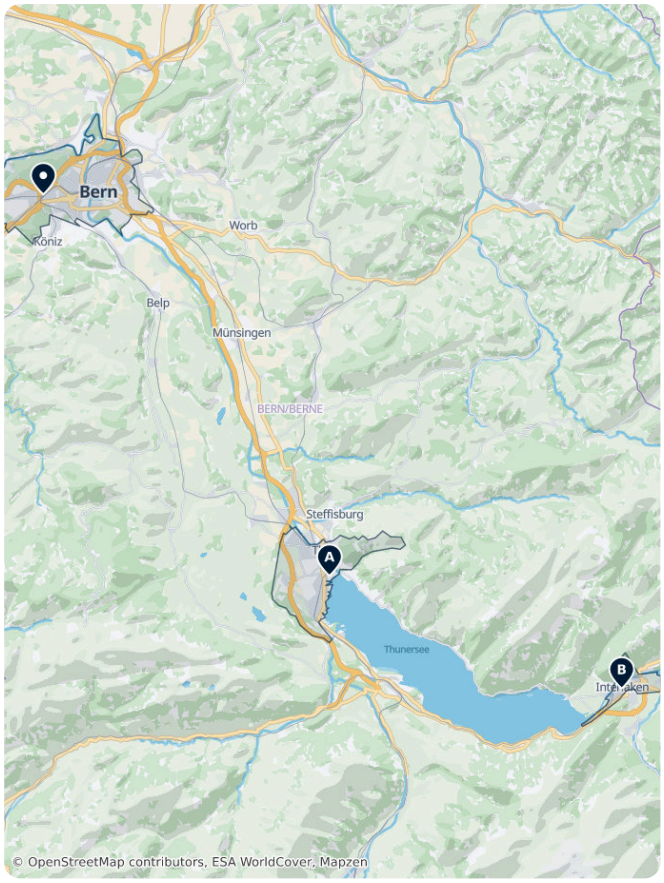
Scan to download the app

## What to experience

- Walk the old town arcades and look at the fountains, such as Kindlifresserbrunnen.
- Visit Museum of Communication for exhibits on post and communication.
- See Swiss and international art at Museum of Fine Arts Bern.
- Relax in Bern Botanic Garden near the river bend.
- Cross Nydeggbrücke for views of the old town from above the Aare.
- Float in the Aare in summer. Check the water level and flow first, because the current is strong.

## Day trips

- A Thun is a lake town with a castle. The train takes about 20 minutes.
- B Interlaken lies between two lakes and is the gateway to the Jungfrau region. The train takes about 50 minutes.




## Where to explore

- Thun and Interlaken are the closest bigger towns in the same canton.

## Getting there

- By air: Bern has a small airport with limited flights. Most visitors fly into Zurich or Geneva and take the train.
- By train: Bern is a main rail hub. Trains run from Zurich in about 1 hour and from Basel in about 1 hour. Check times on SBB.
- The station is in the city centre, next to the old town.

## Getting around

- The old town is best explored on foot. Most sights are within 15 minutes of the station.
- Trams and buses cover the rest of the city. Buy tickets at machines or in an app before you ride.
- Many hotels give guests a free local transport pass. Ask when you book.
- In summer, a swim or float down the Aare is a popular local activity.

### Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

**High**

The old town is compact and flat, with some steep streets down to the river.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

**High**

Bern has many bike lanes and a flat centre. Rental bikes are easy to find.

## Driving

- A car is not useful in the city. The old town has limited access.
- Use a car park at the edge of the centre and walk in.
- Trains are the best way to reach other places in the region.

# Food & drink

Try Berner Platte, a large plate of boiled meats with sauerkraut and beans. Zibelemärit, the onion market in November, is a famous local event. Bern is also known for chocolate and Meringues with double cream.

Many restaurants sit in the old-town cellars. Prices are high, so lunch deals are good value.

## What to eat & drink

### BREAKFAST

**Birchermüesli**
A raw-oat, fruit, and yogurt breakfast invented by a Zurich doctor around 1900, now standard on breakfast buffets.

### LUNCH

**Rösti**
A fried, shredded-potato cake, originally a Bernese farmer's breakfast, now a national side dish.

### DINNER

**Cheese Fondue · Fondue**
Melted Gruyère and Vacherin cheese in a shared pot, eaten by dipping bread cubes on long forks.

**Raclette**
Cheese melted tableside or under a grill and scraped over boiled potatoes, pickles, and onions.

**Zürcher Geschnetzeltes**
Sliced veal and mushrooms in a creamy white-wine sauce, traditionally served with rösti.

**Älplermagronen**
Alpine herder's macaroni gratin with potatoes, cheese, and cream, often topped with fried onions and served with apple sauce.

### SNACKS & STREET FOOD

**Cervelat**
Switzerland's best-known sausage, usually grilled and often called the country's unofficial national dish.

### SWEETS & DESSERTS

**Swiss Chocolate · Schweizer Schokolade**
Switzerland pioneered milk chocolate in the 19th century; look for small-batch chocolatiers alongside the big national brands.

**Basler Läckerli**
A dense, spiced honey-and-candied-fruit biscuit from Basel, traditional around Christmas.

### DRINKS

**Swiss Wine · Vin Suisse**
Mostly consumed domestically rather than exported; Valais and Vaud, along Lake Geneva, produce the best-known Chasselas whites.

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## Safety & health

- Bern is very safe, including at night.
- Watch your bags in crowded places such as the station.
- Tap water is safe to drink, and public fountains are usually drinkable unless marked.
- Swimming in the Aare is risky for beginners. The current is strong and the water is cold.

## History

Bern was founded in 1191 on a hill above the Aare. It joined the Swiss Confederation in 1353 and grew into a powerful city state. Legend says the city was named after a bear that the founder hunted, and the bear is still the city symbol.

The Zytglogge Clock Tower was once the western gate of the city. The old town survived later centuries with little damage. Bern became the Swiss federal city in 1848.

In the early 1900s *Albert Einstein* worked in a patent office here. He wrote some of his most famous papers in this period.

## Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
**CHF CHF**

EMERGENCY
**112**

ELECTRICITY



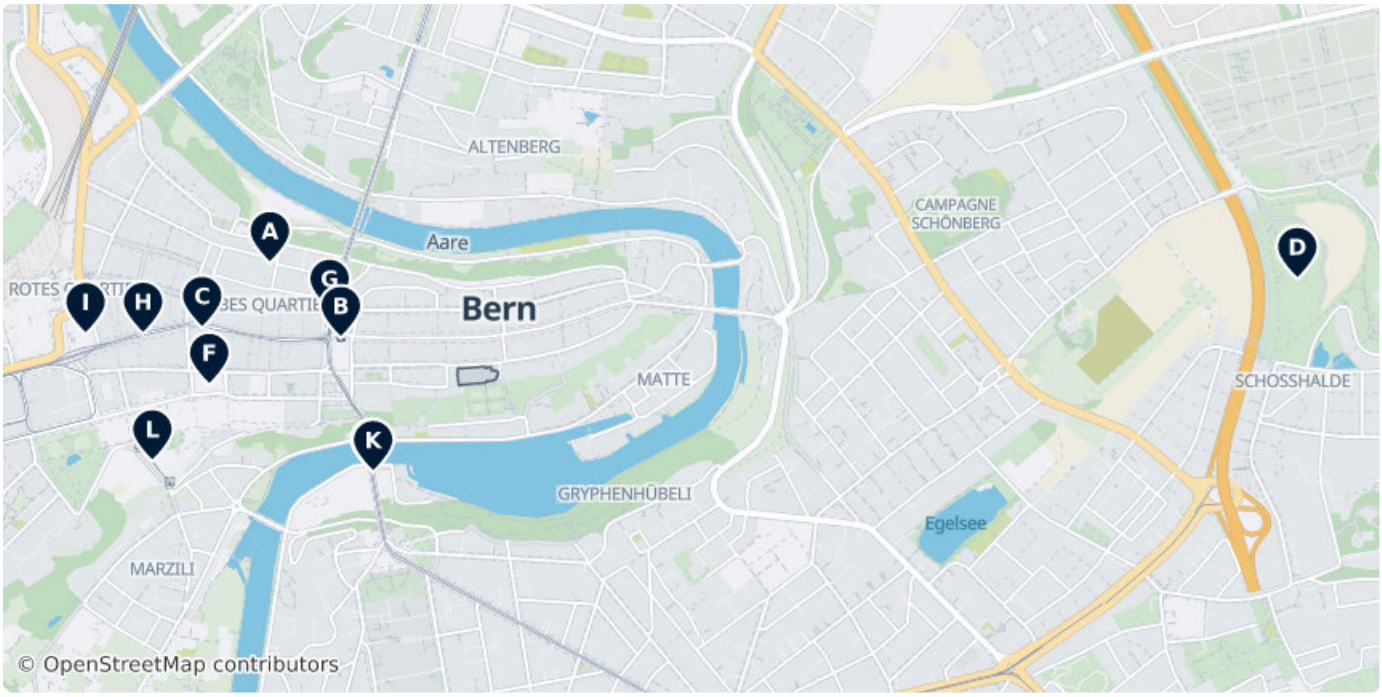
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
**Safe to drink**

# Bern Must-Sees

Bern's UNESCO-listed Old City is defined by its six kilometers of limestone arcades and medieval layout. The Zytglogge clock tower features a 15th-century astronomical mechanism, while the nearby Käfigturm marks the city's former prison gate. Artistic highlights include the wave-like Zentrum Paul Klee and the city's unique 16th-century fountains, such as the Kindlifresserbrunnen. The Bundesplatz serves as the political heart of Switzerland, flanked by the Parliament Building and the Baroque Church of the Holy Ghost.






## A Old City of Bern

Medieval historic city center featuring well-preserved architecture, arcades, fountains, and landmarks. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its cultural and architectural significance.

10 Predigergasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland
(46.94937, 7.44584)

bern.com/de/detail/altstadt-von-bern



## B Zytglogge Clock Tower

Historic medieval clock tower and former city gate featuring an astronomical clock, figurine plays, and panoramic views.

Bim Zytglogge 3, 3011 Bern, Switzerland
(46.94795, 7.44780)

+41313281212



## C Prison Tower

The Käfigturm is a Baroque tower in Bern, Switzerland. It is part of the UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site of the Old City of Bern and the...

Marktgasse 67, 3011 Berne, Switzerland (46.94814, 7.44396)

bern.com/en/unesco-world-heritage-da..., +41 31 322 75 00



## D Paul Klee Center

The Zentrum Paul Klee is a museum dedicated to the artist Paul Klee, located in Bern, Switzerland and designed by the Italian architect...

Monument im Fruchtland 3, 3006 Bern, CH (46.94907, 7.47429)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo | Closed |
| Tu–Su | 10:00–17:00 |

zpk.org, +41 31 3590101

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Monument im Fruchtland, 3006 Bern, Switzerland (46.94908, 7.47429)




## F Bundesplatz

The Bundesplatz is the Government Plaza in Bern, de facto the capital city of Switzerland.

3 Bundesplatz, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94706, 7.44416)



## G Child Eater Fountain

The Kindlifresserbrunnen is a painted stone fountain at the Kornhausplatz in Bern, Switzerland.

16 Kornhausplatz, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94846, 7.44749)




## H Pfeiferbrunnen

The Pfeiferbrunnen is a fountain near Spitalgasse 21 in Bern, Switzerland.

23 Spitalgasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94803, 7.44233)



## I Church of the Holy Ghost

The Church of the Holy Ghost is a Swiss Reformed Church in Bern, Switzerland.

Spitalgasse 44, 3011 Bern, Switzerland (46.94802, 7.44073)



## J Kirchenfeldbrücke

This 19th-century iron truss bridge spans the Aare River, connecting the historic Old City with the Kirchenfeld district. Completed in 1883, it offers elevated views of the Bernese Alps and the federal parliament buildings.

Kirchenfeldbrücke, 3005 Bern, Switzerland (46.94544, 7.44866)



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13 Dalmaziquai, Bern 3005, Switzerland (46.94542, 7.44870)



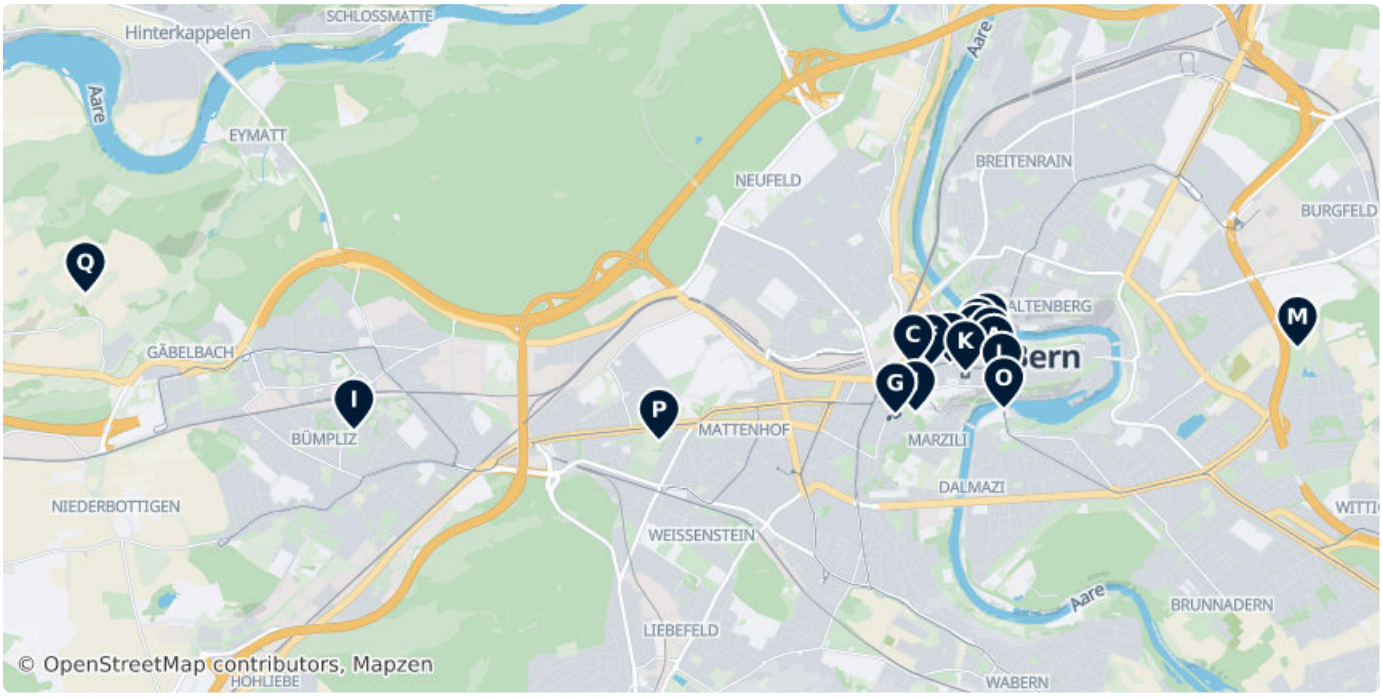

## L Marzili Funicular

The Marzilibahn, officially the Drahtseilbahn Marzili–Stadt Bern is a very short funicular in Bern, the capital of Switzerland.

4 Bundesrain, Bern 3005, Switzerland (46.94562, 7.44258)

# Bern's Heritage Highlights

Bern’s UNESCO-listed Old City is defined by its medieval layout, featuring 15th-century sandstone arcades and iconic landmarks like the Zytglogge clock tower. This collection highlights the city's architectural evolution, from the 13th-century French Church to the Baroque Käfigturm and 16th-century allegorical fountains like the Kindlifresserbrunnen. Beyond the center, the list includes monumental bridges like the Kirchenfeldbrücke and Renzo Piano’s modern Zentrum Paul Klee, showcasing the city's diverse historical and cultural landscape.



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bern.com/en/unesco-world-heritage-da..., +41 31 322 75 00



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16 Kornhausplatz, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94846, 7.44749)



## E The french Church

Visit the oldest church in the city that was built between the years 1270 and 1285.

Predigergasse 3, 3011 Bern, Switzerland (46.94899, 7.44644)

paroisse.gkgbe.ch




## F Pfeiferbrunnen

The Pfeiferbrunnen is a fountain near Spitalgasse 21 in Bern, Switzerland.

23 Spitalgasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94803, 7.44233)



## G Katholische Dreifaltigkeitskirche mit Pfarrhaus und Pfarreiheim

Roman Catholic basilica built between 1896 and 1899 in the style of a late medieval Italian basilica.

Kryptahof, 3007 Bern, Switzerland (46.94513, 7.43918)

kathbern.ch/pfarreien-seelsorge/pfarreien/bern-dreifalti...




## H Bern Theatre

Bern Theatre, known in the city as Stadttheater Bern, is an opera house and theatre in Bern, Switzerland.

Kornhausplatz 20, 3011 Bern, CH (46.94931, 7.44726)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo–Fr | 10:00–18:30 |
| Sa | 10:00–14:00 |
| Su | Closed |

konzerttheaterbern.ch, +41 313295111



## I Altes Schloss Bümpliz

The Altes Schloss Bümpliz is a castle in the section of Bümpliz-Oberbottigen in the city of Bern of the canton of Bern in Switzerland.

89 Bümplizstrasse, Bern 3018, Switzerland (46.94416, 7.39195)

schloss-buempliz.ch

## J Kleine Schanze

Former bastion of the city fortifications, now a public park offering views of the Bernese Alps and the Federal Palace.

16 Taubenstrasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94526, 7.44096)

## K Kaiserhaus

Historic building on Marktgasse featuring a late 19th-century facade and a modern shopping arcade.

Kaiserhaus-Passage, 3011 Bern, Switzerland
(46.94763, 7.44532)




## L Casino Bern

Neo-Baroque concert hall and cultural venue built in 1909, featuring a grand auditorium used for classical performances.

25 Herrengasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland
(46.94690, 7.44849)

casinobern.ch, +41 31 3280228




## M Zentrum Paul Klee

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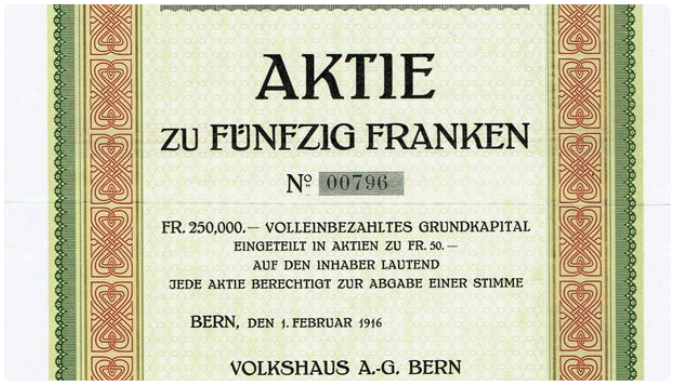
Monument im Fruchtland, 3006 Bern, Switzerland
(46.94908, 7.47429)


AKTIE
ZU FÜNFZIG FRANKEN
Nº 00796
FR. 250,000.— VOLLEINBEZAHLTES GRUNDKAPITAL
EINGETEILT IN AKTIEN ZU FR. 50.—
AUF DEN INHABER LAUTEND
JEDE AKTIE BERECHTIGT ZUR ABGABE EINER STIMME
BERN, DEN 1. FEBRUAR 1916
VOLKSHAUS A.-G. BERN

## N Volkshaus

Historic center of the Bernese labor movement since 1893, now operating as a hotel and restaurant.

(46.94862, 7.44626)



## O Kirchenfeldbrücke

High-level iron bridge built in 1883, connecting the Old City to the museum district across the Aare river.

Kirchenfeldbrücke, 3005 Bern, Switzerland
(46.94544, 7.44866)



## P Holligen Castle

Holligen Castle is a castle in the municipality of Bern of the Canton of Bern in Switzerland.

44 Holligenstrasse, Bern 3008, Switzerland
(46.94355, 7.41857)

schlossholligen.ch

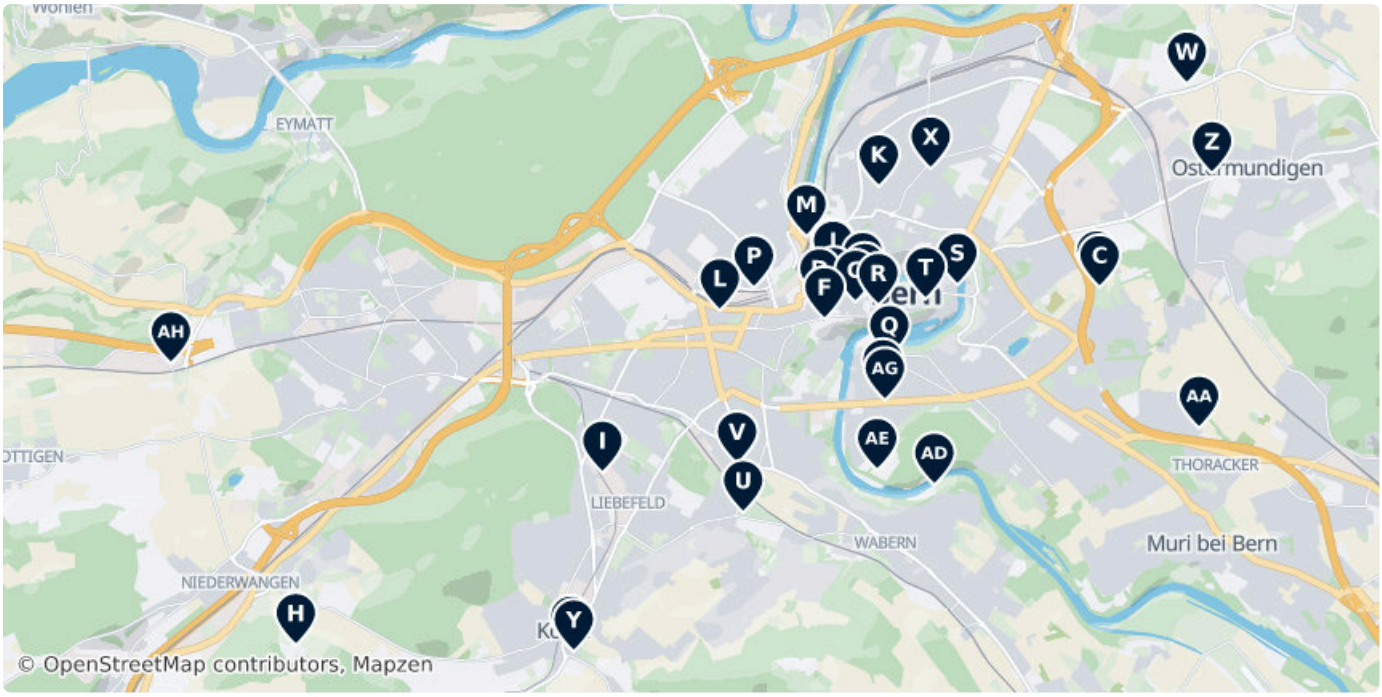
## Q Campagne Riedern

Late Baroque country estate and manor house dating back to the 18th century.

(46.95230, 7.36852)

# Art and Culture in Bern

Bern's cultural landscape blends UNESCO-listed medieval heritage with contemporary expression. This selection spans the iconic 16th-century allegorical fountains of the Old City to Renzo Piano's architectural masterpiece, the Zentrum Paul Klee. Visitors can explore specialized institutions like the Museum of Psychiatry and the Masonic Museum, or engage with the city's performing arts at the Stadttheater and various independent basement theaters. The list also highlights public bronze sculptures and community art hubs like PROGR, a former school building transformed into over 150 artist studios.



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bern.com/en/unesco-world-heritage-da..., +41 31 322 75 00



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zpk.org, +41 31 3590101




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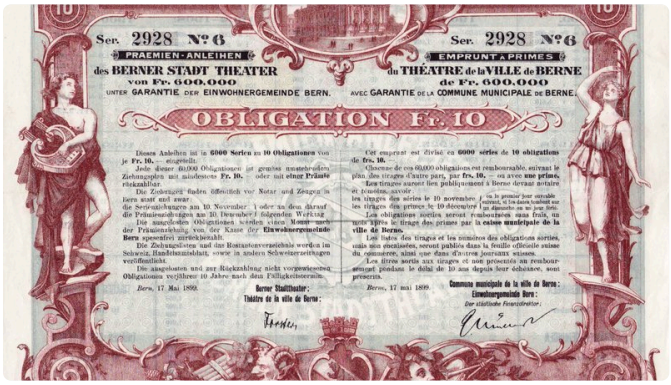


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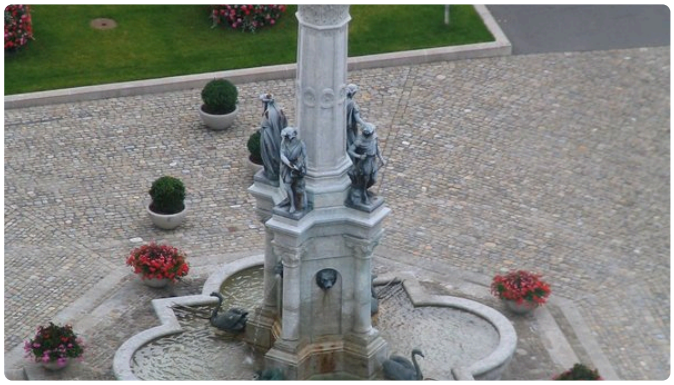
konzerttheaterbern.ch, +41 313295111



## F Bernabrunnen

A late 19th-century fountain featuring a bronze figure of Berna, located in the inner courtyard of the Federal Palace's west wing.

1 Bundesgasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94657, 7.44290)




## G Schützenbrunnen

A 16th-century Renaissance fountain depicting a marksman, standing as one of the historic allegorical fountains on Marktgasse.

17 Marktgasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94792, 7.44642)

## H Landguet Ried

A seminar and retreat center that hosts cultural workshops and artistic gatherings in a rural setting near the city.

23 Hilfligweg, 3172, Switzerland (46.92119, 7.38257)

landguet.ch

## I KonzertTheaterBern

The region's primary performing arts venue, hosting a diverse program of opera, theater, ballet, and symphonic concerts.

(46.93462, 7.41756)

konzerttheaterbern.ch

## J Galerie 3000

An independent contemporary art gallery and project space focused on local artistic experimentation.

30 Waisenhausplatz, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.95020, 7.44389)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo–Fr | Closed |
| Sa | 14:00–16:00 |
| Su | Closed |

galerie3000.ch

## K Galerie ArchivArte

A gallery and shop specializing in contemporary Swiss art and professional art restoration services.

47 Breitenrainstrasse, Bern 3013, Switzerland (46.95691, 7.44909)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo–We | Closed |
| Th–Fr | 16:00–19:00 |
| Sa | 13:00–16:00 |
| Su | Closed |

archivarte.ch, +41 31 3316206

## L Galerie Kornfeld

A major auction house and gallery specializing in 19th and 20th-century art, including works by modern masters.

Laupenstrasse 41, 3008 Bern, CH (46.94726, 7.43095)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo–Fr | 09:00–12:00, 14:00–18:00 |
| Sa | 09:00–12:00 |
| Su | Closed |

kornfeld.ch, +41 31 3814673

## M Grosse Halle

A large-scale cultural venue within the Reitschule complex, used for theater productions, concerts, and art exhibitions.

Neubrückstrasse 8, 3012 Bern (46.95302, 7.44083)

grossehalle.ch, +41 31 3066963

## N Stadtgalerie

A municipal gallery showcasing contemporary regional and national art within the PROGR cultural center.

30 Waisenhausplatz, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.95027, 7.44397)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo–Tu | Closed |
| We–Fr | 14:00–18:00 |
| Sa | 12:00–16:00 |
| Su | Closed |

bern.ch/politik-und-verwaltung/stadtver... , +41 31 3217647

## O Progr

A former school building converted into a major cultural hub with over 150 artist studios, galleries, and performance spaces.

30 Waisenhausplatz, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.95030, 7.44370)

progr.ch, +41 31 3188270

## P Cerny Inuit Collection

A specialized gallery and museum dedicated to contemporary circumpolar art, featuring Inuit sculptures and prints.

Stadtbachstrasse 8a, 3012 Bern, CH (46.94903, 7.43483)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo–Tu | Closed |
| We–Sa | 13:00–18:00 |
| Su | Closed |

cernyinuitcollection.com, +41 31 3182820

## Q Grand Palais

An independent art space hosting temporary exhibitions, performances, and cultural discourse.

Thunstrasse, Bern, CH (46.94362, 7.45030)

| | |
|---|---|
| Th–Fr | 17:00–19:00 |

grandpalais.ch, +41 31 3517454

## R SOON

A contemporary gallery focusing on urban art, modern illustration, and emerging international artists.

60 Münstergasse, Bern 3011, Switzerland (46.94767, 7.44904)

| | |
|---|---|
| We–Fr | 13:30–18:00 |
| Sa | 10:30–17:00 |

galerie-soon.ch, +41 31 3318473

## S Theater Matte

An intimate theater in the historic Matte district specializing in local dialect plays and small-scale productions.

Mattenenge 1, 3011 Bern (46.94925, 7.45806)

theatermatte.ch, +41 31 9013879

## T Puppentheater

A traditional puppet theater in the Old City offering shows for both children and adults.

Gerechtigkeitsgasse 31, 3011 Bern (46.94814, 7.45442)

berner-puppentheater.ch, +41 31 3119585

## U "Lots of Walls of Z" Kore Gallery

A contemporary art gallery featuring unique visual installations and modern works.

(46.93153, 7.43362)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

kore-contemporary.ch

## V Tram-Museum

A museum documenting Bern's public transport history, featuring a collection of historic streetcars and artifacts.

Seftigenstrasse 48, 3007 Bern (46.93533, 7.43292)

trittbrett.ch/trammverein-bern/tram-museum/index.php

## W Museum of Psychiatry

Visit this extraordinary museum to learn about the history of discovering and treating mental illnesses.

Bolligenstrasse 127, 3072 Ostermundigen (46.96490, 7.48425)

psychiatrie-museum.ch, +41 31 9309111

## X Galerie Brand

An exhibition space and art center hosting local artists and community creative projects.

23 Herzogstrasse, Bern 3014, Switzerland (46.95830, 7.45500)

+41 31 3317060

## Y Kultur-Hof

A cultural center in the Köniz district providing space for art exhibitions and community events.

(46.92070, 7.41428)

## Z popup galerie am dreieck

A temporary exhibition space used for rotating art shows and creative pop-up events.

1 Untere Zollgasse, Ostermundigen 3072, Switzerland (46.95793, 7.48710)

| | |
|---|---|
| Th–Sa | 15:00–20:00 |
| Su | 11:00–15:00 |

## AA Masonic Museum Switzerland

A museum exploring the history and rituals of Freemasonry in Switzerland through historical artifacts and documents.

Jupiterstrasse 40, 3015 Bern (46.93812, 7.48564)

Sa 10:00–16:00

freimaurermuseum.ch

## AB Schulmuseum Bern

A museum dedicated to educational history, featuring reconstructed classrooms and antique teaching materials.

Muhlernstrasse 9, 3098 Köniz, CH (46.92100, 7.41393)

| | |
|---|---|
| Mo–Tu | Closed |
| We | 14:00–17:00 |
| Th–Fr | Closed |
| Sa | 14:00–17:00 |
| Su | Closed |

schulmuseumbern.ch, +41 31 9710407

## AC Kindermuseum Creaviva

An interactive museum located at the Zentrum Paul Klee offering hands-on art workshops for children.

Monument im Fruchtland 3, 3006 Bern (46.94943, 7.47390)

creaviva-zpk.org

## AD The Guardian

A modern outdoor sculpture.

(Unnamed Road), Köniz 3084, Switzerland (46.93368, 7.45544)

## AE Kelch, symmetrisch

A modern symmetrical sculpture located in a public space.

3 Tierparkweg, Bern 3005, Switzerland (46.93483, 7.44890)

## AF Grosser Diskuswerfer

A bronze statue of a discus thrower representing classical athletic form.

15 Hallwylstrasse, Bern 3005, Switzerland (46.94098, 7.44954)

## AG Knabengruppe

A public bronze sculpture depicting a group of boys.

24 Kirchenfeldstrasse, Bern 3005, Switzerland (46.94027, 7.44979)

## AH Orion

A modern sculpture located on private grounds.

150 Riedbachstrasse, 3018, Switzerland (46.94313, 7.36832)

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