



100x BERN ALIVE

100 illustrated portraits of the City of Bern.

100x BERN ALIVE

FOREWORD

You've had a letter from your auntie overseas? It reached you thanks to the Universal Postal Union – which has its headquarters in Bern.

Can't make up your mind whether to get chocolate or coffee from the rail bar? Whichever you'll choose – both Toblerone and Nescafé originated in Bern.

And you would like to know why the rail bar attendant doesn't spill a drop despite the train's high speed? The explanation is in Relativity Theory – which also originated in Bern.

Many European cities have arcades – but Bern has Europe's longest, and calls them *Lauben*. A stream runs through most towns and cities – but only the *Stadtbach* in Bern flows uphill. And art museums are easy to find – but Bern's *Zentrum Paul Klee* holds the largest collection of works by a single world-renowned artist.

Get to know life in Bern. You will find that the proverbial Bernese slowness is a relaxed *Gemütlichkeit*. True: it was not invented in Bern, but nowhere else is it celebrated in quite as pleasant a way as here.

You're holding 100 x BERN ALIVE in your hands. 100 events, faces, facets, locations and stories. Discover the unexpected, be stimulated, but also re-discover the familiar.

Be as ALIVE as BERN, 100 x!

The Municipal Council of the City of Bern

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BERN IN THE WORLD



1 ALBERT EINSTEIN

Annus mirabilis in Bern

Was it due to the city's air that the man who was to become the most celebrated scientist of his times should enjoy his *annus mirabilis* 1905 in Bern? At no. 49 *Kramgasse* (→58), Albert Einstein wrote his essay, *On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies*, received by scientists as the Special Theory of Relativity. It revolutionised physics and laid the foundation to Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, completed in Berlin in 1915. How did Bern come to host such an illustrious scientist?

Having graduated in physics in Zürich, Einstein was unemployed for two years. In 1902 he at last found a permanent post as a patent expert, 3rd class, with the Swiss Patent Office in Bern. During his limited leisure time, he wrote treatises on physics. In 1905, within just a few months, he published five papers that were to turn the principles of physics upside down. 1905 was Einstein's most creative scientific period – and Bern was to prove both starting point and the culmination of his unique career.

2 ROBERT GRIMM

Zimmerwald Conference of European revolutionaries and peace activists

During World War One, a small village on the Längenberg hill in the Bernese Mittelland became the focal point of international politics when, in September 1915, the year following the outbreak of the Great War, thirty-eight socialists from eleven European countries secretly assembled in Zimmerwald. Leon Trotsky and Vladimir Lenin, who lived in Bern and Zürich between 1914 and 1917, were among the delegates.

Robert Grimm, a Bernese Social Democrat and editor-in-chief of the daily paper, *Berner Tagwacht*, was instrumental in organising the assembly, whose purpose was to gather Europe's socialists together in concerted action.

However, delegates were divided on how to achieve social change, with Lenin calling for violence and armed revolution. Believing in pressure from the man in the street, Grimm did not share Lenin's views.

In Grimm's view, mass strike action was the proletariat's weapon par excellence; he was the driving force behind the 1918 Swiss General Strike of 11–14 November. But he also embraced public office, serving on municipal, cantonal and national parliaments for many years, including the *Gemeinderat*, Bern's executive council, from 1918 to 1938. In 1938 Grimm was the first Social Democrat to be elected to Bern's cantonal executive, serving until 1946.

3 NESCAFÉ

Worldwide success through perseverance and ingenuity

Nescafé is the world's most popular coffee. Every third cup of coffee consumed in the world is instant and half of all those cups contain some kind of Nescafé. So, the famous powdered-coffee product should have been invented in Bern?

For six years, Bernese chemist Max Morgenthaler had been experimenting on conservable coffee. In 1936 his hard work produced results. His invention was the keystone in a long history that had begun in 1930 with a company called Nestlé.

It was a year in which Brazil's plantations yielded a vast surplus of coffee, with planters pouring tons of beans into the sea to keep world market prices up. The Brazilian government turned to Nestlé, specialists in condensed and powdered-milk and cocoa products. Despite a period of four years, a research team led by Max Morgenthaler remained unsuccessful in their attempts to conserve coffee. When Nestlé aborted their trials, Morgenthaler continued his experiments from home. Two years later he had the brilliant brainwave of adding a carbohydrate that would trap the flavour. The result was an aromatic coffee syrup, which he dried in his oven. In 1937 Morgenthaler offered his patented invention to Nestlé and Nescafé has been on the market since 1938.



4 ALBRECHT VON HALLER

Universal spirit and researcher from Bern

13,300 letters have been preserved that arrived at the Fischer post office in Bern between 1723 and 1777 from all over Europe, addressed to a certain [Albrecht von Haller](#). The man himself sent thousands of letters in over ten different languages to scholars in all four corners of the world. There is no doubt that von Haller was among the 18th century's most prolific correspondents. But the Bernese patrician was more, being considered a polymath for his breadth of knowledge and skills. Having studied medicine and science in Tübingen, Leiden, London and Paris, Haller made a name for himself across Europe as professor of anatomy, surgery and botany at the University of Göttingen, Germany, and was a member of the most illustrious scholarly societies and academies. He published some 50,000 pages of predominantly scientific writings – more than most researchers before or since.

Haller was also a poet and literary critic of the Enlightenment. His fame chiefly rests upon his monumental poem, *The Alps*, which opened his contemporaries' eyes to the magnificence and beauty of the mountain world.



5 KUNSTHALLE

International reach and bourgeois resistance

In 1968 a photograph went around the world: [Kunsthalle Bern](#) – and its 1918 building – caught the public eye, or at least the attention of artistic circles. The coup was pulled off by young curator Harald Szeemann. In the context of 12 Environments, he had commissioned New York artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude to create *Wrapped Kunsthalle*, the first building ever to be shrouded in white polythene and nylon.

Kunsthalle Bern has always been a great institution for avant-garde art. The first half of the 20th century saw exhibitions of works by Alberto Giacometti, Paul Klee and many others. In the latter half of the century, Kunsthalle Bern featured renowned artists Sol LeWitt, Henry Moore, Jasper Johns, Bruce Naumann and others.

However, the installations in Szeemann's legendary exhibition of 1969, *When Attitudes Become Form*, did not please everyone. His inclusive interpretation of art provoked a wrathful response that took the form of a cart-load of manure deposited outside the Kunsthalle.

6 CHOCOLATE MADE IN BERN

Sweet inventions from Lindt and Tobler's chocolatiers

Around 1900 Bern wrote chocolate history. Its protagonists were Rodolphe Lindt and Jean Tobler with son Theodor. It all began when Rodolphe Lindt acquired two fire-damaged mills and a few antiquated machines in Bern's Matte quarter (→69) by the Aare river. Experimenting with cocoa butter and solids, he developed the groundbreaking conching process, which consists in adding an extra portion of cocoa butter to ground cocoa and blending the mixture for several days. The resulting *chocolat fondant* immediately found great favour as people had only known chocolate as a brittle, bitter mass chiefly used for drinking chocolate.

A few years later, in 1908, Theodor Tobler and his cousin Emil Baumann went on to develop a completely new kind of chocolate. While milk and chocolate were already a well-known Swiss combination, the two men added almonds, honey and nougat, creating *Toblerone*, the first patented chocolate. Its twelve triangular peaks and prism-shaped packaging were part of a promotional strategy that was way ahead of its time.

7 WORLD TRADE INSTITUTE

Elite school for the world's future trade experts

Breakfast coffee from Brazil; cornflakes made of U.S. grain – we consume foreign goods and products every day. What do you know about the gigantic web of rules and regulations that govern today's international trade? In 1995 the Geneva-based WTO – World Trade Organisation – was established to define and deal with the rules of trade between nations.

The creation of this international organisation created a scientific gap: an institution offering graduate courses that deal with the legal, political and economic aspects of world trade.

In 1999 Thomas Cottier, professor of European and International Economic Law, and three colleagues closed the gap, creating the [World Trade Institute WTI](#) in Bern, which became part of the University of Bern in 2001. WTI students from all over the world make it the most international of Bern University's institutes. Its unique combination of international law, economics and trade policies has placed the WTI among the world's elite schools for international trade regulation.

8 UNIVERSITY OF BERN

Top spot in climate and space research

From ice-core analyses in Greenland and Antarctica to the reconstruction of climate history, the [University of Bern](#) holds a top position in international climate research. The National Centre of Excellence in Climate Research is part of the university, which is proud of its over 150 years of experience in the field. The [Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research](#), named after Bern's pioneering physics professor Hans Oeschger (1927–1998), was created in 2007 to bring together scientists from nine institutes and three faculties.

The University of Bern also ranks among the top players in space research. One of its experiments was part of the first Lunar landing in 1969, when astronauts planted the solar wind sail, a thin sheet of aluminum suspended from a tripod, on the surface of the Moon. Particles emitted from the sun at tremendous speed and captured by the sail have been analysed, allowing scientists to draw their conclusions on solar processes. Since its successful solar wind experiment, the University of Bern has been an international centre for space research and Bern's scientists have been involved in numerous significant experiments carried out on space missions.



9 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

The Old City of Bern – a large-scale historic monument

Bern has always been a proud city. When it was included in the list of [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#) in 1983, many Bern residents saw their view of living in a very special place confirmed.

The core of the medieval city, which sits on a spur of land in a loop of the Aare river, has been preserved to this day. Its clear and progressive layout won it the world's greatest possible accolade for historic architecture.

Bern is among the first cities to receive the coveted UNESCO seal. The challenge remains, however, to find a balance between conservation and residential, business and leisure functions.

THE WORLD IN BERN



10 STATE VISITS *Powerful guests*

Gun salutes, flags, ringing church bells, taking the salute of the guard of honour, and a horse-drawn carriage ride down the Old City, broken by a stop at the historic *Bärengraben* or Bear Pit (→78): this used to be the greeting bestowed upon state visitors from foreign lands. The Swiss government never set great store by pomp and circumstance, but it does have to observe basic diplomatic etiquette. Until well into the 20th century, state visits to Switzerland were a rare spectacle, attracting the lively interest of the general public and bringing thousands of spectators into town.

State visitors used to be lodged at the elegant Lohn country mansion near Kehrsatz by Bern. Ownership of Bellevue Palace hotel having been transferred to the Swiss Confederation in 1994, they can now be accommodated a mere 247 paces from the *Bundeshaus*, the seat of the Swiss parliament. Official receptions are held virtually next door, on Parliament Square (→21) and in the spacious *Bundeshaus* foyers.

Mind you, state visitors are not expected to walk the short distance. Rather, an escorted limousine takes them from Bellevue hotel to Parliament Square via the scenic Kirchenfeld and Monbijou bridges that soar across the Aare river. Other things have changed also: gun salutes, ringing church bells and the carriage ride through Bern's Old City were abolished in the early 1980s.

11 TOURISM IN BERN *A visit to the charming capital*

“Travelling and sojourning in Switzerland foster moral health – From Basel, Zürich and Schaffhausen post coaches to Bern make for very swift journeys, from Zürich to Bern in 24 hours.” Johann Gottfried Ebel was the author of one of the earliest travel guides to Switzerland, *Anleitung, auf die nützlichste und genussvollste Art die Schweiz zu bereisen* (Zürich, 1793)¹. He would have found a twenty-four-hour coach journey barely worth mentioning. Today, the same trip takes just an hour.

Every year over 400,000 [Swiss and foreign visitors](#) arrive in Bern by train, plane or car, a number that only includes visitors who spend a night in Bern, with total visitor numbers considerably higher. The town's hotels provide almost 3,500 beds where tourists can rest after a leisurely walk through the Old City.

Or, to quote the Lonely Planet entry about Bern, “Hands down one of the most understated, charming capitals on the planet, its 15th-century Old Town is fairy-tale-like with its terraced stone buildings, covered arcades, clock towers, church spires and cobbled streets.”

12 CELEBRITIES IN BERN

Einstein, and Goethe

Paris, Rome, Venice, Berlin, Vienna, London, New York, Los Angeles – cities that are centres of great art and culture, hubs of glamour and science. What about Bern?

Being too small and too modest, it has never been a cultural metropolis. But if you delve deeper into the archives and leaf through biographies, you will find names that have made world history: Goethe, Dumas, Mozart, Einstein, Lenin, Hegel, Picasso, Rilke, Bakunin, Brahms, Casanova – they and many, many others visited Bern or stayed for a while to work and study. Some of them recorded their impressions. Widely-travelled German poet Goethe wrote the following, particularly flattering portrait of Bern after his visit in 1779: “... on that occasion roamed about the City; it is the most beautiful we have seen, built in Bourgeois Sameness one as the other, all made of a soft, greyish Sandstone, the interior *Egality* and Cleanliness are of great Benefit to one, in particular as one feels that Nothing is empty *Decoration* or average *Despotism*; the Buildings erected by the State of Berne are imposing and costly. But they have no Appearance of Pomp that would draw one’s Eye to One before the Other ...”²²

13 BERN – CENTRE OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT

Nobel Prize for the Peace Bureau

Geneva is world-renowned for being the seat of the U.N. and a city of Peace. But few know that, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the city of Bern was the centre of the bourgeois peace movement. In 1889 the [Inter-Parliamentary Union for International Arbitration](#) was established in Paris so that nation states might no longer engage in armed conflict against each other, deferring to international arbitration instead. In 1891 the Union’s 3rd conference in Rome created the Permanent [International Peace Bureau](#) based in Bern.

The Peace Bureau organises and hosts the Universal Peace Congresses, and watches over developments in international law, disarmament and the peaceful settlement of conflicts, as well as coordination of and networking among pacifists, pacifist groups and institutions. For its efforts, the Peace Bureau was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1910.

Just a year after the creation of the Peace Bureau, the Central Bureau of the Inter-Parliamentary Union opened its doors in Bern. The Union was crucially involved in the organisation of the First Peace Conference in Den Haag, Holland, in 1899.

At present, the seats of both the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Peace Bureau are in Geneva.



14 UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Bern – a U.N. city

From *Weltpostgebäude* in Bern, the International Bureau of the [Universal Postal Union](#) and its 250 staff from fifty countries co-ordinate a truly universal network of up-to-date services, e.g. for letter and parcel deliveries. In 1874 twenty-two states convened at the *Rathaus zum Äusseren Stand* in Bern to establish the UPU, a special U.N. department. It is the world’s second-oldest international organisation and currently has 191 member states. In 1909 a bronze and granite monument was erected in Bern’s *Kleine Schanze* park to remind posterity of Bern’s role as UPU’s founding city.

Bern’s only U.N. organisation attracts people from all over the world. About a thousand delegates flock to UPU headquarters for annual meetings of the Council of Administration (CA) or the Postal Operations Council (POC), either of which last two to three weeks.

15 1954 FOOTBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The "Miracle of Bern"

It is a rainy July day in 1954. 63,000 spectators are watching the game pitting Germany against Hungary, the world's best football team. Despite their reputation, the Magyars lose in a dramatic finale. Known as the "Miracle of Bern", the German victory at the 1954 Football World Championship makes history.

The final game at Bern's historic *Wankdorfstadion*, which ended in a 3:2 win for Germany, was much more than a mere football game. The victory triggered paroxysms of joy in Germany. Nine years after the end of World War Two, football success pulled an entire nation out of their post-war depression.

Since that day *Wankdorfstadion* has been demolished and re-built as *Stade de Suisse* (→96). In 1954 it was the birthplace of a new German sense of self-worth.



16 EURO 08

Bern turns orange

Although it was Spain who became Europe's football champions in 2008, what counted in Bern was only *Hup Holland hup*. Holland played all their 2008 European Football Championship group games at *Stade de Suisse* (→96), Bern's football stadium. Their opponents were Italy (World Champions), as well as Romania and France, another leading favourite. Holland led all three games – 3:0, 2:0, 4:1.

For three days, Bern was in a delirium: surging through the city centre, the tens of thousands of well-travelled, football-mad Dutch supporters produced waves of orange – even their hats and sunglasses were that colour! Before each game, peaceful processions made their way from Parliament Square (→21) across *Kornhaus* bridge and the *Nordquartier* to *Stade de Suisse* (→96) and images of the huge *Oranje* parties went around the world.

Regrettably, the Dutch lost in Basel in the Quarter Finals against the Russians. Had the game been held in Bern, who knows what the result might have been – people kept referring to the magic of Bern. Never mind, the residents of Bern fondly remember the joyful orange football parties.



POLITICS IN BERN



17 CENTRE OF SWISS POLITICS *Heartland of Swiss politics*

Bern is the political home of de-centralised, federally organised Switzerland. Welcome, then, to the heartland of Swiss politics. Bern is not just the capital of the Swiss Confederation, but also the seat of the Swiss government and parliament, and of large parts of the [federal administration](#). It also boasts over eighty embassies and international agencies.

Of course, the capital is a hub for various interest groups and lobbies that wish to present their concerns and try to raise interest and majority votes. Significant public and private companies, non-profit organisations, associations and educational institutions contribute to the profile of Bern as a [political centre](#). This is where public and social order are being defined and developed, where acts and laws are passed, altered or abolished.

Nevertheless – and contrary to the old cliché – Bern is not a city of civil servants. The public administration only employs one seventh of the city’s entire workforce – evidence that many private companies are drawn to the political heartland.

18 POLITICS UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL *The “Night of the long knives”*

Bern residents know their politicians personally; politics are everywhere in the city streets and squares, cafés and bars. Members of the Federal Council travel by public transport; party presidents shop for groceries at Bern’s outdoor markets; up-and-coming politicians hang out at the city’s “in” places. The town stays awake when an important event is due – the election or re-election of a member of the Council, for example.

The decision of who will be part of the next Swiss government council is taken the night before the election, the so-called “Night of the long knives” – and decisions are made in Bern’s traditional restaurants. Party strategists stay up into the small hours to find last-minute allies, and to make sure nothing is left to chance on election day. Informal meetings occur at Bellevue Palace hotel, at Café Fédéral, and at the Ringgenberg and Della Casa restaurants. You can be sure that Federal Bern’s “Night of the long knives” is not a myth but very real indeed: dawn alliances have prevented several re-elections in the past.



19 POLITICS ON PEOPLE'S DOORSTEPS

Participation in Bern

If Bern's City Council want to improve a residential area by creating a new playground, the local children have their say. They will enjoy the support of the working group of the [Children's Parliament](#), and of Bern's office for children's participation, the *Kinderbüro Bern*, which part of the Youth Welfare Service. Eventually, the municipal garden office will implement the children's ideas.

Adults, too, may participate in many local areas as Bern's municipal code accords participation on local issues to the local population. To ensure proper consultation, Residents' and Tenants' Associations (RTAs) may also exercise their right to participate – provided they reflect their quarter's demographic make-up and diversity. Except for the city centre, each quarter now has an official RTA and locals are involved, particularly when it comes to planning issues, on which they are consulted by the Council.

In other words, all residents of Bern – young or old, voters or immigrants – may help shape their residential environment by having a vote in the Children's Parliament, in the [Youth Council](#), in a [Residents' and Tenants' Association](#), or in the [Seniors' Council](#).

20 POLITICAL FORUM AT KÄFIGTURM

Politics in a former gaol

Until 1897, drunkards, troublemakers and criminals did their time in the historically significant tower. Since 1999, however, the *Käfigturm* has been the seat of the Swiss government's Political Forum, a place where citizens and residents of Switzerland can engage in political debate and awareness-raising.

Politics are ubiquitous in the federal capital. Unescorted and undisturbed, members of the Swiss government and parliament rub shoulders with ordinary men and women.

But high politics are not always easy to grasp. At the [Political Forum at Käfigturm](#), located virtually next door to the Swiss Parliament, frequent exhibitions, panel discussions and talks address topical political issues. And the best thing? Anyone wishing to hold their own political event may use the historic rooms free of charge.

21 PARLIAMENT SQUARE

Focal point of national identification and vibrant gatherings

On a warm summer's day, [Parliament Square](#) resembles an open-air swimming pool as children run screaming and laughing among cool, shimmering piles of water. Since day one, the twenty-six fountains have been a much-loved and much-photographed attraction. They stand for the twenty-six Swiss cantons and underscore the square's national significance. When it was inaugurated in 2004, Joseph Deiss, President of the Confederation, called the square the *Rütli*³ of the 21st century. It is where people gather for political, cultural and sports events. State visitors are received here ([→10](#)). It is also where the *Märit* ([→80](#)), Bern's popular fruit, flower and vegetable market, is held on Tuesday and Saturday mornings.

The original square was created in 1902 upon completion of the *Bundehaus*, with vaults beneath the square and adjacent Swiss National Bank reputed to contain more than the city's historical documents – stubborn rumours claim they also hold Switzerland's wealth in the form of gold.

22 POLITICAL RALLIES IN BERN

A stage for national demonstrations

Bern is where Switzerland's national politics happen. Country dwellers who shake their heads at parliamentary decisions tend to say that "the polit-folk up in Bern do whatever they want". But if their outrage or anger grow too strong, they will congregate and demonstrate – usually on Parliament Square (→21).

The discontented often display great imagination. Bras have fluttered in the breeze, tractors filled the square, a cardboard minaret has been raised. In 1928 suffragettes pushed a gigantic snail to the gates of the *Bundeshaus* in protest against the snail's pace of progress in the women's vote. And in 1993 more than 10,000 Swiss – most of them women – clamoured for a woman to be elected to the Federal Council, the Swiss Government.

Bern is also the traditional venue for peace demonstrations. Over 40,000 people were gathered in 2003 to protest against the impending war of the U.S. against Iraq. It was the nation's biggest political rally since the 1983 peace rally against what was to be the Cold War's final round of military buildup, which in turn came second only to the demonstrations during the Swiss General Strike of 1918.

23 BURGERGEMEINDE BERN

Bern's citizens at the service of the community

The *Burgergemeinde* – Bern's historic Citizen's Community – may be an anachronism, but one thing is certain: Bern's social and cultural life would be much the poorer without it. The *Burgergemeinde* spend an annual twenty million Swiss francs on cultural and scientific projects, including the annual Cultural Award worth CHF 100,000.

Burgergemeinde facilities and institutions also reflect the organisation's commitment to public welfare, as the organisation not only owns the *Jugendwohnheim Schosshalde*, a home for adolescents, but also Bern's Natural History Museum, and other cultural institutions.

The *Burgergemeinde's* thirteen guilds and societies are in charge of member's welfare, and legal guardianships. The community with a worldwide membership of 17,400 knows no geographical boundaries but not every citizen is a guild or society member.

24 NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

Time-lapse trip around the world

Diplomats and embassy personnel usually move in closed circles, with contacts in Bern restricted to Swiss officialdom. At the Swiss Government's New Year's Reception, however, the representatives of over eighty embassies step into Bern's limelight at the great *Bundeshaus* doors. It is a tradition that goes back to 1855.

Crowds gather on Parliament Square (→21) to watch the spectacle as notables and government representatives from the city and canton of Bern, and of the *Burgergemeinde* (→23), arrive in elegant horse-drawn carriages escorted by Bernese Dragoons. No less solemn is the red-carpeted procession of members of the entire diplomatic corps, often in splendid national or traditional dress, in front of the *Bundeshaus*. To the onlookers, the New Year Reception is a welcome diversion and a time-lapse trip around the world.



CULTURE IN BERN



25 MUSEUM NIGHT *Brilliant showcase for culture*

Every spring, around mid-March, Bern's culture has a night of wondrous wakefulness: it is *Museumsnacht*. Cultural establishments, libraries, archives and parks stay open far into the night to offer cultural delicacies in an unusual setting and at an unusual time. City buildings are lit up in many colours. Until the small hours of the morning, anyone eager for knowledge can immerse themselves into other worlds and other times. Conventional shuttle buses and vintage trams, buses and cars transport visitors from one location to the next, from *Zentrum Paul Klee* ([→42](#)) in Bern's east to Westside ([→100](#)) in the west.

Every March, some forty institutions open their doors one Friday to Saturday night to over 100,000 visitors. Some people get quite stressed-out because there is not enough time for them to see and hear everything. It is a good thing that Museum Night has become a regular feature of Bern's cultural calendar.

26 SPOKEN-WORD FORMATION "BERN IST ÜBERALL" *Celebrating the spoken word*

A stage for words: that is the idea of *Bern ist überall* – Bern is Everywhere. The authors of this spoken-word formation constituted themselves in 2005 to present their playful linguistic compositions created less for publication than for performance. The focus of *Bern ist überall* is on performative acts by various and varying authors. Language has to be spoken aloud because "language is born in the mouth".

As the name of the group says, the founding members of *Bern ist überall* were from Bern and its environs and spoke the Bernese dialect variant of Swiss German. Currently, their performances are also peppered with the sounds of French and Roumansh.



27 ALTSTADTKELLER

Culture in the underground

Many of the treasures in Bern's Old City only reveal themselves on closer inspection. A different world awaits you in the numerous street-side cellars, where a cultural and drama scene evolved from the 1950s that was to radiate across all of Switzerland.

Initially, "cellar culture" was literally an underground movement. The *Berner Troubadours* (→47) with legendary singer-songwriter Mani Matter performed at *Galerietheater "Die Rampe"*, a theatre and music cellar that became very widely known.

Art galleries also took up residence in ancient cellars. A unique establishment was *Junkere 37*, a discussion forum at no. 37 *Junkerngasse* that was particularly active from 1964 until 1970. Among its guests were philosophers Theodor W. Adorno and Kurt Marti, and underground poet René E. Mueller. This was where the spirit and fire of 1968 made themselves felt most strongly in Bern. Moreover, *Kellerkino*, Switzerland's first privately-owned alternative cinema, opened its doors in *Kramgasse* in 1970.

Cultural activities in Bern's ancient city cellars remain diverse and refreshing. In the 1990s and 2000s, many of them were transformed into restaurants and bars. Off you go into the underground – plenty of discoveries await.

28 PROGR

A "culture factory" in the heart of the city

Culture happens everywhere. But Bern boasts a fulcrum of cultural energies: since the original grammar school on *Waisenhausplatz* vacated the premises in 2004, some 150 creative artists have transformed the *PROGR's*⁴ many classrooms into studios and project workshops, initially a provisional solution. In 2009, following an imaginative campaign that persuaded the voters of Bern to approve plans for culture-filled buildings, the *PROGR* foundation was granted ownership.

Many of the regulars flock to *Turnhalle*, the *PROGR's* former gym, a two-storey space transformed into a very popular café-bar. It is also a venue for concerts, discos, art exhibitions and other cultural activities. But *PROGR* is much more than a hip event location: it is a creative "factory" with a remarkable mix of lines: painting, dance, design, creative writing, photography, product development. Uniquely, the venue provides facilities for every stage required, from original production through to funding, communications/PR and presentation of works. *PROGR* is home to artists, graphic designers, cultural mediators and theatre promoters – it is a true culture factory.



29 FRIEDRICH GLAUSER

The inspector and his alter ego

We don't know when or where Jakob Studer was born. But we do know that the pot-bellied, mustachioed detective lived in Bern's *Kirchenfeld* with his wife and daughter, and was a constable in the police force of the canton of Bern. Usually holding a Brissago cigar between his lips, *Wachtmeister* Studer had a great deal of patience for reprobates and people on the margins of society, and relied on his infallible intuition to solve the trickiest of cases.

Wachtmeister Studer is the product of Friedrich Glauser's imagination. Glauser invented the figure of a rather grumpy yet down-to-earth detective that was to feature in many detective novels by other writers.

The man Friedrich Glauser was inwardly torn. His father had him sectioned, and he repeatedly escaped from various psychiatric asylums. In 1921 he joined the French Foreign Legion, later scrapping a living in France, Belgium and Switzerland as an unskilled labourer. 1936 saw the publication of Glauser's first detective novel featuring the constable Studer. Four more Studer novels were to follow until the author's death in 1938.

His books reflected Glauser's harsh experiences with government agencies, the district guardianship office, psychiatrists and directors of penal institutions. Glauser's works met the fate of those of many other artists: it was only after the writer's death that his literary achievements began to be appreciated. When his novels were made into films, the character of *Wachtmeister* Studer first came to the cinema and, via television, into Swiss living rooms, and etched himself into the collective mind.

30 REITSCHULE BERN

From riding school and stables to autonomous cultural venue

To some it is the city's hall of shame, to others a symbol of cultural diversity. No other complex has been quite as controversial as *Reitschule* on *Schützenmatte*. Between 1999 and 2010, Bern's voters were called to the urns five times – each time they decided to keep the alternative cultural centre going.

Reitschule is a venue for concerts, films, plays and performances, art exhibitions and flea markets. People here assiduously build and live, print and read, write and interpret, and cook, serve and consume food and drink.

The Municipal Riding School opened its doors in 1897. As traffic to and from the city increased, space for the horses diminished. By the 1960s, the complex had grown increasingly derelict; the last horses left in 1981. That was the year in which a group of young people occupied the *Reitschule*. Their goal was to create an autonomous youth centre managed along grass-roots democracy lines. They invested six years of hard graft, struggle and persuasive tactics before they were able to establish continuous cultural operations.

These days, the *Reitschule* is a popular venue not just for Bern's youth. People who fondly remember the 1980s youth movement like to visit, and come across all sorts of avant-garde artists.



31 BERN'S "MUSEUM ISLAND"

Where culture packs a punch

Six museums plus the [Swiss National Library](#) and the [City Archives](#) – within a radius of fewer than two-hundred metres, the *Kirchenfeld* quarter has a lot to offer. The *Koenigsfeld* Diptych, a masterpiece created by a 13th-century Venetian goldsmith, can be found at *Historisches Museum Bern*, a stone's throw from the Natural History Museum with its great 150-year-old exhibition of bones, while contemporary art is on display at *Kunsthalle* (→5) across *Helvetiaplatz*.

Almost next door, the Museum of Communication – unique to Switzerland – is dedicated to the history and evolution of interpersonal communications. In the past, special exhibitions have addressed the way rumours spread, or even how people communicate with the hereafter.

The Swiss Alpine Museum in the adjacent building is a treasure chest of information on the discovery and conquest of the Alps and Swiss Alpine landscapes. And if you are interested in marksmen's trophies, rifles, cups and medals, the nearby Swiss Rifle Museum has fascinating exhibits.



32 LISCHETTI'S FOUNTAIN

Bern's Speakers' Corner

Anyone can take the stand at the *Kronenbrunnen* in *Postgasse* to make their long-harboured public statement. Grab hold of the handrail and climb the narrow metal steps to the top of the pillar and you will cut a fine fountain figure. And because every such figure has a tale to tell, benches for the audience have been conveniently placed in the street below.

Bernese artist Carlo E. Lischetti's fountain sculpture of 1992, *keine Brunnenfigur* (Not a fountain figure), requires active visitors to be complete. As a speaking platform, it is Bern's answer to Speakers' Corner in London.

Lischetti (1946–2005) was a polymath: painter, sculptor, video artist, actionist and performer, songwriter and word juggler – to put it in Lischetti's own inimitable words, "I am my vocation."

33 CLUBBING IN BERN

Night turns into day

People keep reproaching Bernese men and women for living on the slow side. But after sunset the temperature soars in the streets of Bern. Especially in *Aarberggasse* in the upper Old City, night crawlers get their money's worth, because this is where bars sit cheek by jowl. People dance to electro, indie or sixties sound at [Club Bonsoir](#), established in 2009 by Bern's party elite. A different crowd enjoys house music at the [Liquid](#), a four-floor club that has turned night into day for the past fifty years and longer – albeit under various managements and different names.

A few paces on, guests are made welcome at the [Turnhalle bar](#) at [PROGR](#) (→28). And if you fancy a stroll down to the Aare river, you can dance into the dawn at [Dampfzentrale](#) (→34) – and worry about tomorrow later ...



34 DAMPFZENTRALE

From coal-fuelled power station to powerhouse for contemporary culture

Power was produced here until 1973. Now the turbine hall and boiler house with their flexible stages showcase contemporary culture. *Dampfzentrale* (Steam central) “explores current forms of music and dance and the vague terrain in between. Our focus is on progressive, rebellious culture without a safety net.”⁵ The former power station has become Bern’s most important venue for the international dance avant-garde.

The red brick building is located on the banks of the Aare river adjacent to the expanse of the *Marzilibad* (→91). Like many other cultural venues in converted buildings, *Dampfzentrale* has a colourful past which goes back to the early 20th century when Bern’s need for power exploded and the existing hydraulic power station in the Matte quarter (→69) could no longer meet demand. When power production came to an end, the building was doomed. However, in 1987 young people desperate for a cultural venue squatted the building. Their occupation was celebrated in *Hansdampf*, a song by legendary Bernese rock band *Züri West* (→44). Following officially sanctioned provisional use, the conversion into a cultural venue was publicly funded; *Dampfzentrale* is now a professionally managed cultural enterprise.

35 PAUL KLEE

“I and colour are one.”

“Colour has taken hold of me. No longer do I have to pursue it. It has hold of me forever, I know that. This is the meaning of this happy hour: colour and I are one. I am a painter.”⁶

Klee wanted to be a painter and he was one. Today, every child knows his paintings, at least in Bern, which is where many of them were created. And unless they are on tour at a museum somewhere in the wide world, they can be admired at *Zentrum Paul Klee* (→42).

Born in Münchenbuchsee near Bern in 1879, Paul Klee went to school in Bern. Following his baccalaureate he studied painting at *Kunstakademie München*. In the 1920s he taught and worked at *Bauhaus* in Weimar and Dessau, Germany, until in 1931 he followed at call to *Kunstakademie Düsseldorf*. The Nazis humiliated the long-illustrious artist as a “degenerate”, and he was dismissed. In 1933 he and his wife emigrated to Bern, where he produced his spectacular late works.

Despite his chronic and ultimately fatal illness – or perhaps because of it – he increased his productivity during his final years: his oeuvre catalogue lists 1,254 works created in 1939, the penultimate year of his life, and his most productive. Paul Klee’s oeuvre is highly diverse, ranging from expressionism, constructivism and cubism to primitivism or surrealism – Klee made all these movements his own.

36 BUSKERS

The street’s a stage

Bern is a year-round haven for buskers. Some of them attract large crowds, while others receive barely a glance. In August, however, the best, funniest, most innovative street musicians and artistes from all over descend on the city for the *Buskers Street Music Festival*. For three days, the Old City teems with improvised and provisional stages for a multitude of events – music, dance, drama, comedy, puppeteering, circus arts. Tens of thousands of delighted spectators reward performers with applause and gratuities – performers work without a fee. Many regular spectators claim an early spot at their favourite event of the evening in one of Bern’s narrow Old City streets.

37 BEE-FLAT

World music in Bern's ears

What do Sevara Nazarkhan from Uzbekistan, Bassekou Kouyaté from Mali and Mich Gerber from Bern have in common? They have performed on the stage of *Turnhalle* at *PROGR* (→28), entrancing their audiences in the process. A collective of event organisers has organised *Bee-Flat* concerts for the past ten years. They started out at *Sous le Pont* in the *Reitschule* (→30), re-locating to *Turnhalle* at *PROGR* in 2005. Bee-Flat have held over five hundred events in the past ten years.

Alongside *BeJazz*, Bee-Flat are Bern's biggest organisers of contemporary jazz events, also embracing world music, new song-writing, electronic music, fusion, etc. The great success of bee-flat concerts is due not least to 140 volunteers contributing thousands of hours of hard work.

38 BALTHASAR BURKHARD

Black and white, and on a large scale

Seemingly endless cityscapes, landscapes with dunes, monumental body parts – always in black and white and on a very large scale: Bernese photographer Balthasar Burkhard's monumental black-and-white images achieved world status. Born in Bern on 24 December 1944, he was apprenticed to Kurt Blum, who taught him to accept only the best quality, and nurtured his delicate sense of subtle shades of grey. The international art world first noticed Burkhard in 1969 when he exhibited large-format photographs, co-created with Bernese artist Markus Raetz (→50) by employing their own technique of direct exposure of images on vast canvases. Following a detour to Hollywood, CA, where Burkhard had hoped his striking face would enable him to play a villain, he spent several years in Chicago and New York City, returning to Switzerland in the 1980s. From Bern, helicopters took him and his camera to locations all over the world to capture bird's-eye views of megacities or the Namibian Desert for his monumental photographs, which he produced in his own studio in a painstaking process. Burkhard died in Bern on 16 April 2010, aged 65.

39 ART IN THE WEST

Culture on the periphery

Bern's western periphery grew very rapidly, especially in the 1960s and 70s, resulting in a fairly haphazard jumble of buildings. Many interventions have attempted to render the area more attractive. For example, the erstwhile Schild cloth mill at *Fellerstrasse* was converted to become a part of HKB – *Bern University of the Arts*. Studios, workshops and laboratories in brightly lit spaces provide ideal working conditions. HKB is a partner of *Kunstachse* project – another intervention

which uses art to enhance public space along an imaginary axis between the urbanised villages of *Bümpliz Süd* and *Bethlehem Nord*. Also part of *Kunstachse* is a steel structure, designed by architect Jean Nouvel for *Expo.02*, the Swiss national exhibition: *Cabane B* is a small art and culture gallery near *Bümpliz Nord* train station intended for HKB students and locals interested in art.

And so Bern's "West End" is increasingly turning into a Mecca for artists and art lovers.



40

MERET OPPENHEIM

The fountain that isn't one

In summer, water splashes down the concrete pillar overgrown with moss and grasses. In the cold winter months, however, the *Oppenheim Brunnen* on *Waisenhausplatz* is a bizarre ice sculpture. Inaugurated in 1983, the creation by artist Meret Oppenheim inflamed Bernese passions. Most people loved having a work by one of Bern's most illustrious residents on a central square. A few, however, demanded its re-location, triggering a controversy that threatened to divide the city's population. But the fountain stayed and the living work of nature art fills most Bernese with pride.

Oppenheim was born in Berlin in 1913 to a German father who was a medical doctor, and a Swiss mother. Aged just 18 and determined to pursue an artistic career, she moved to Paris where she was soon adopted into the circle of Surrealists including André Breton, Marcel Duchamp and Max Ernst. Still in her twenties, she became famous for her surrealist objects such as *Le déjeuner en fourrure* – fur-covered cup, saucer and spoon – or *Ma gouvernante, my nurse, mein Kindermädchen* – made of a pair of ladies' shoes and evoking both female curves and a roast chicken.

Her rapid rise to stardom was followed by a long creative crisis, from which she only emerged in the 1950s, by which time she was married and lived in Bern. Until her death in 1985, the artist and poet created a vast oeuvre.



41

TAPESTRIES FROM BURGUNDY

Treasures of war

One man's joy is another man's sorrow. The proverb fits the history of the tapestries at *Historisches Museum Bern*: in 15th-century Europe, Charles the Bold, the great Duke of Burgundy, is on the warpath to expand his realm. He desperately wants territories that belong to the Old Swiss Confederation. But he fails to reckon with Bern's stubborn resistance.

In the Battle of Grandson of 1476, the doughty Swiss Confederates not only humiliated the Duke of Burgundy, they also looted one of the greatest treasures in world history: weapons, jewellery, valuable manuscripts and priceless textiles, among them the oldest and most sumptuous *Millefleurs*⁷ tapestry.

Today, this and other Burgundian tapestries are the property of and on display at *Historisches Museum Bern*. The fragile textiles are frequently kept in dark storage to protect them from the ravages of light.

The museum is also the custodian of about a dozen other Burgundian and four Caesar tapestries. The latter illustrate the life of the Roman general and were looted during a different conflict, Bern's 1536 conquest of Vaud.

Being great travellers, medieval noblemen loved tapestry, spectacular textiles woven of wool, gold and silk that adorned their itinerant homes.

42 ZENTRUM PAUL KLEE

Cultural centre in the green belt

In June 2005 [Zentrum Paul Klee](#) opened its doors to art and culture lovers from all over the world. The cultural institution focuses on the life and work of Paul Klee (1879–1940) ([→35](#)). The centre is a monument of international scope to one of the 20th century’s most significant artists, who was also a musician, teacher and poet, and who spent half his life in the city of Bern.

Some ten thousand works by Klee exist throughout the world – four thousand of them are at Zentrum Paul Klee. Its holdings – paintings, watercolours, hand puppets and drawings – are considered the largest collection of works by an individual artist of his stature. However, the institution does more than just present Klee’s oeuvre. Its founder, Maurice E. Müller, wanted to create both a traditional art museum and a centre of culture dedicated to the research and teaching of this and other artists’ lives and works. Doing justice to Klee’s interdisciplinary oeuvre, the centre is also a venue for dramatic, musical and literary events.

Architecturally, too, Zentrum Paul Klee is different from traditional museums. Renowned Italian architect Renzo Piano designed an entire architectural landscape, a generous green island from which the cultural centre rises in three waves. Piano’s land-art architecture alone deserves a visit.

Another unique feature of Zentrum Paul Klee is “Creaviva”, a lively space for children, young people and adults to explore their creativity by playing with forms, colours and sound to create their own works of art.



43 BERNESE RAP

Who’s the boss in Bern?

[Chlyklass-Kollektiv](#)⁸ – *Wurzel 5*, *PVP* and rappers *Greis* and *Baze* – occupy a position amounting to a monopoly in terms of Bernese hip-hop. The rappers teamed up in the late 1990s, more from necessity than out of love because the boys from the two very different Bernese neighbourhoods of *Breitenrain* and *Obstberg* did not get along. But they were too skint for each band to have their own rehearsal room, and decided to share space and rent. The collective are still active even though they have long left school, and have attracted fresh talent hungry for a gig.

A young woman, [Steff la Cheffe](#), has established herself in the male-dominated hip-hop scene. She addresses machismo, for example when she sings about running to the doctor to tell him, *Herr Doktr, Herr Doktr, i bruche es Schnäbi, zum räppe u so wärs drum würkli no gäbig*.⁹ Born in Breitenrain in 1987, Steff knows exactly what she wants, and she lets you know – in no uncertain terms.

44 BERNESE DIALECT ROCK

Bern rocks in Bernese

Should the dialect songs by Mani Matter (→47) have failed to endear the Bernese dialect to Switzerland's ears, the country's younger generations at least have been singing rock songs in dialect since the genre arrived on the scene in the early 1970s.

It is no exaggeration to claim that this particular form of rock was born in Bern in the guise of *Bärner Rock* by Bernese band *Span*. Another "primary stratum" of Bernese dialect rock is *Polo Hofer*, whose songs *Kiosk* (1976) and *Alperose* (1985) have become classics. Like most of its companion rock bands, *Züri West*, established during the youth unrests of the 1980s, was part of the alternative music and cultural scene. With front man Kuno Lauener, *Züri West* joined the squatters of *Dampfzentrale* (→34) and *Reitschule* (→30) to create independent cultural spaces for Bern's youth, and confronted police forces clearing the venues.

Their songs exude the atmosphere of change of those days and *Züri West* have become Switzerland's premier cult band.



45 ROBERT WALSER

World-famous yet tragic poet

In 2009, the *Robert Walser Centre* was inaugurated at no. 45 *Marktgasse* in the heart of Bern's Old City. It is a centre of competence including the Robert Walser Archive, a research library and an exhibition of Walser artefacts.

The author was born in Biel in 1878, and lived in Bern from 1921 until 1933. But he wrote his best-known novels in Berlin: *Geschwister Tanner* (The Tanner Siblings), *Der Gehülfe* (The Assistant) and *Jakob von Gunten* were written in the early years of the 20th century.

While in Bern Walser lived a secluded, very modest but intensely creative life, occupying various garret rooms. He wrote drafts for poems, prose pieces, scenes of plays and an entire novel (*Der Räuber*) in so-called "microgrammes", reams of notes filled with almost illegible pencil writings in minute lettering. Later he would edit the texts and produce fair copies. In 1929, having suffered a mental collapse following a lengthy period of anxiety attacks and hallucinations, Walser became an inmate of Waldau mental asylum on the outskirts of Bern. Here he continued to write and work on his texts. It was only in 1933 that Walser's pen dried up: he had been forcefully transferred to the mental asylum in Herisau in his home canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden. The writer died in 1956, during a solitary winter walk near the institution.

46 ART IN PUBLIC SPACE

Open-eyed in the city

What is that glinting on the ground? A five-franc coin. No, wait, two *Fünfliber* lie among the cobble stones. But finder's no keepers here: the coins are firmly anchored to the ground and impossible to pick up. Before you can raise your head, a fat jet of water douses you. Gotcha! Luciano Andreani's *Wasserspeier* (Water Spout) at no. 39 *Münstergasse* has caught many by surprise. But no sooner are they in on the game than they gleefully watch the next victim's reaction.

Bern's bears live in the city but they are also fountain figures, heraldic animals and part of company logos. A very special bear can be seen at *Bärenpark* (→78) where a seemingly weightless bear balances on a tightrope high above the heads of visitors (sculpture by Carlo E. Lischetti →32).

Artistic interventions in public space encourage passersby to look more closely and not to walk about mindlessly. On *Casinoplatz*, *Kopflös*, a headless sculpture by Andreani represents a pair of four-toed feet linked by a loop. Its four-hundred kilogrammes may trip you up if you go about without using your head.

But if you keep your eyes open, who knows what other marvels you will discover as you explore Bern's alleyways and arcades?



47 BERNER TROUBADOURS

Singer-songwriters

A worm falling in love with its own tail; a match that nearly caused a world-engulfing fire; shyness that distinguishes us from chimpanzees – so many people begin to hum when they hear one of these cues. Mani Matter songs have long been a part of the canon of Swiss *Volkslieder* and are taught and sung at school, in the home and around camp fires.

Mani Matter is the father of the Bernese chanson, and co-founder of the *Berner Troubadours*, who constituted themselves in 1966 at *Galerietheater "Die Rampe"* (→27) managed by *Troubadour* Bernhard Stirnemann. From 1966/67, the six *Troubadours* – Ruedi Krebs, Mani Matter, Bernhard Stirnemann, Markus Traber, Fritz Widmer and Jacob Stickelberger – gave group and solo performances throughout Switzerland. Working full-time as teachers, politicians, journalists, lawyers, music making and singer-songwriting was their hobby, but one that completely absorbed them. Their songs tell mundane and bizarre stories that often end in unexpected ways: quotidian philosophy in Bernese dialect.

48 BARRY

Life-saver extraordinaire

Who does not know legendary Barry? Of a dog breed later called the St. Bernard, Barry's excellent nose helped him rescue more than forty people who had come to grief in the Alps. From 1800 to 1812 Barry lived at an altitude of 2,400 metres, in the hostel or hospice on top of Great St. Bernard Pass. It is probably a myth that he carried a small barrel of spirits dangling from his collar to warm up victims from inside. But he was an heroic dog all the same. Having reached a man buried alive in an avalanche, Barry was taken for a beast, stabbed; the attack left him no longer able to continue working.

He was taken to Bern where he spent his final years; a taxidermist treated his skin following his death in 1814.

Now the world's most famous St. Bernard dog guards a prominent place near the entrance to [Bern's Natural History Museum](#), where lots of visitors young and old come to admire him.



49 SHNIT INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Thrills on and around the screen

Shnit international shortfilmfestival has been opening Bern's autumn cinema season since 2003. For five days and nights, some three-hundred thrilling, humorous and weird short films from all over the world hold sway on the festival screens.

Apart from its cinematic mainstay, the event also offers a colourful range of special programmes that involve the active participation of audiences and filmmakers alike. In the Realtime film challenge, for example, three crews using the same actors and production facilities film the same short story. The results are submitted to the judgment of the Shnit audience, who also have a say, of course, in the evaluation of all the other films.

The Bernese festival formula has made it onto the international scene: in 2009, Cologne, Germany, held its own Shnit festival; Cape Town became the third Shnit city in 2010. Any country may organise its own short-film festival – not as a subsidiary, but as an equal partner. Shnit is one festival held simultaneously in several cities.

50 MARKUS RAETZ

Moving works of art

How do you transform a No into a Yes, a *Nein* into a *Ja*? By the power of persuasion. But sometimes all you need to do is change your point of view.

It is crucial in Markus Raetz' art. What matters in his works is the way the viewer perceives and receives them, rather than what he has decided to present. The viewer is often part of the work because it is revealed and a *Oui* transformed into a *Non*, for example, or a wire rabbit into a man wearing a hat, as the viewer moves about.

Raetz was born in Büren an der Aare in 1941. Initially a teacher, he has been a free-lance artist since 1963, creating paintings, drawings, designs, photographs. Like many other Bernese artists, he knew Harald Szeemann, 1960s director of *Kunsthalle* (→5), and participated in the legendary exhibition, *When Attitudes Become Form*. In the 1970s, Raetz and his family moved to the *Obstberg* quarter of Bern, where he has been exploring new ideas in his studio. There is no doubt that he will continue to make us see the world anew.

51 REVEREND BEAT-MAN

Bernese trash-blues musician with an international fan community

Are you tired of the uniformity of charts hits? How about challenging your ears with some truly elemental sound? For example with music by Beat Zeller aka *Beat-Man*. Zeller has been “on the road” for over twenty years, playing earthy rock'n'roll and blues that oscillates between utter amateurism and pure genius. He also manages the underground music label *Voodoo Rhythm* established in 1992. On his extensive tours of the U.S., southern Europe and Japan, *Beat-Man* has met like-minded musicians who are now on his label, which produces blues, folk, punk, rockabilly, garage rock, rock'n'roll, cajun, etc., with distribution outlets all over the world.

Beat-Man has lived through and for his music, almost completely disregarding any commercial considerations. In 2009 a demand by the SUIISA Foundation for Music for a substantial sum of royalty back payments very nearly pushed the production company over the brink. But the label was saved by its international fan community, who made donations and held fund-raising concerts to ensure the future of *Voodoo Rhythm*.

52 STATTLAND

Why roam far ...

... if you don't yet know Bern properly? The themed guided walks organised by the [StattLand](#) association are a fantastic way of looking behind Bern's scenes as guides and actors present the city from new, unusual perspectives. For the past twenty years, StattLand have provided many somewhat different walks about the city. Their unique, fascinating, surprising tours include *Bern top secret*, which showcases Bern as an espionage hub; *Bern hin und weg* focuses on migration, while *Bern verkehrt* lightheartedly addresses the subject of mobility and *Bern ent-sorgt* explores the city's arteries both above and below ground.

53 KONZERT THEATER BERN

Culture in venerable buildings, former factories or in a high-rise

Today's [Stadttheater](#), the municipal theatre and opera house, stands on the spot where, until the end of the 19th century, the Municipal Riding School was located. Today, rather than horses, it is dancers, musicians, singers or actors who are driven to give their all. Each season sees more than three hundred performances. The 750-seat theatre can no longer accommodate ballet, drama and musical theatre side by side. More room was made available by the conversion in 2007 of a former factory, *Vidmarhallen*, in Bern's suburb of Köniz.

The *Konzert Theater Bern* foundation was created in July 2011 as an organisational umbrella for [Stadttheater Bern](#) and [Berliner Symphonieorchester](#). The Bern Symphony Orchestra open each new season with a free concert on Parliament Square (→21). Throughout the season, the musicians perform concerts, accompany choirs and plays at the Stadttheater. They have even been known to play in and around a high-rise block of flats: in September 2009, Swiss TV joined forces with [Stadttheater Bern](#), [Berliner Symphonieorchester](#) and the local population for a live production of Puccini's opera, *La Bohème*, at the Westside leisure and shopping complex (→100) and in one of the *Gäbelbach* quarter's high-rises.

54 GURTENFESTIVAL

From alternative culture fest to musical mass event

Chunnsch o ufä Güschtä? – What sounds like a mysterious incantation is the question many Bernese ask each other every mid-July to find out who will join them for the open-air music events on Gurten (→88), the forest-ringed hill that the Bernese consider their own.

The [Gurtenfestival](#) long ago ceased to be an insider affair and has been an integral part of the Swiss festival summer for the past twenty years.

The folk festival on Gurten was launched by Bernese musicians in the summer of 1977. It was an alternative cultural and family event, and a very different affair from today's version. In its earlier incarnation, the Gurten meadows became one big open stage; among the audience were many families with small children; they drank apple juice and tea rather than cola and beer, and preferred mushroom *risotto* to fast food. Seven such folk festivals were held from 1977 until 1987.

The festival was revived in 1991 in a more commercial form; its diversity of events, unique location and friendly atmosphere attracts tens of thousands of spectators each year.





55 BERN – GREAT STAGE FOR SMALL THEATRES

Lively action on bijou stages

Alongside the cultural events presented by *Stadttheater* (→53), Bern also has a flourishing free theater scene with numerous small theatres, drama companies and festivals. In the 1980s, for example, the historic slaughterhouse at no. 22 *Rathausgasse* was converted into a cultural venue. *Schlachthaus Theater Bern* does not have its own ensemble but provides a stage for visiting troupes, among them the renowned Club 111; it also showcases lesser known artists, many of whom were discovered here.

Professional, semi-professional and amateur actors and actresses display their theatrical skills at *Tojo Theater* on the premises of *Reitschule* (→30).

The Bernese cultural agenda would not be the same without *AUAWIRLEBEN*, the annual contemporary drama festival for independent theatre companies.

Theater Matte was created in 2010 as a platform for drama productions in Swiss dialect.

In contrast, *Berner Puppentheater* at no. 31 *Gerechtigkeitsgasse* can boast a history that goes back several decades. In the organisers' own words: "For us, puppet theatre begins where human theatre reaches its limits, in a magical realm of the unreal and of fairytales, in a land where giants dwell and rocks can speak."

Some of the Old City's *Altstadtkeller* (→27) are home to small theatres. The former *kleintheater kramgasse* 6, for example, has transformed itself into *ONO*, a small space for art presentations, dancing, drinking and performing.

56 ADOLF WÖFLI

Creator of an imaginary world

He is considered one of the most important exponents of Art Brut or Outsider Art: Adolf Wölfli, an artist who was mentally ill. French Surrealist André Breton described Wölfli's work as "one of the three or four most important [artistic] oeuvres of the twentieth century."¹⁰ During his thirty-five years (1895–1930) at the mental asylum of *Waldau* in Bern, he created some 1,600 drawings and the same number of collages. And he recorded his imaginary autobiography in a monumental 25,000 pages of paper bound into notebooks. After just a few pages, his actual autobiography transforms itself into the lavishly illustrated description of a trip around the world before the narrative describes the creation of the universe. A complex web of prose, poetry, onomatopoeia, charts and tables, invented numbers and musical compositions transmogrifies his childhood

into a grandiose past as Wölfli invents the "St. Adolf-Giant-Creation", a vast imaginary universe of his own.

Waldau psychiatrist Walter Morgenthaler's 1921 study, *Ein Geisteskranker als Künstler*, was dedicated to Wölfli. It was the first publication to take a schizophrenic's artistic production seriously. But it was only long after Wölfli's death in 1930 that his art and poetry were presented to a wider audience. Since 1975 the *Adolf Wölfli Foundation* at *Kunstmuseum Bern* have been the custodian of Wölfli's vast oeuvre, which is the subject of their scientific study and exhibitions. His works now adorn the walls of art institutions all over the world and collectors scramble to lay their hands on the few Wölfli pieces that ever make it onto the art market.



BERN'S OLD CITY



57 BERN'S ARCADES AND ROOFTOPS

In and above the Old City streets and alleyways

If a large part of Bern's originally wooden city houses had not fallen victim to a fire in 1405, the inhabitants of Bern might not now be able to stroll along their beautiful *Lauben*, as they call their arcades. Following the great fire, the municipal leaders decided to rebuild the city. The arcades required construction techniques involving stone and the characteristic green-hued sandstone that we associate with Bern to this day was chosen. Claiming part of what used to be street space, the arcades support rooms on the upper floors of the terraces of private properties, considerably increasing the surface area of shops, trades and living quarters.

The popular name for the arcades in the four main streets of *Spitalgasse*, *Marktgasse*, *Kramgasse*, *Gerechtigkeitsgasse* is *Rohr*, or "tube", an appropriate term for some six kilometres of all but unbroken covered walkway that allow visitors to walk in the shade or out of the rain all the way from *Heiliggeistkirche* to *Nydeggbücke*.

The Old City's pleasant roof terraces are the residents' exclusive domain. But you may catch a glimpse of some rooftop gardens if you climb the 222 steps of the spiral staircase that rises to the first gallery of the *Münsterturm* (Cathedral spire, →67). And the views beyond the city's buildings will reward you for your effort.

58 EINSTEIN HOUSE

In the footsteps of a genius

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying that one “can recognize a really good idea by the fact that its realization seems to be impossible right from the start.”¹¹ One of his really good ideas was to live in Bern’s Old City, where he wrote his treatises that were to change our view of the universe (→1).

These days, no. 49 *Kramgasse* is universally known as *Einstein-Haus*. It was inaugurated on 14 March 1979, the scientist’s 100th birthday. From 1903 until 1905, Einstein and his family lived in a flat in the building that still breathes his spirit. This is where you can find out how he lived in Bern, and see the environment in which he wrote his groundbreaking work. A small exhibition presents his correspondence, some photographs and other historic documents. Moreover, interactive experiments challenge your knowledge of physics.

At the end of your visit, feel free to carry on philosophising about the relativity of existence over a lovely cup of coffee in the elegant ground-floor café.



59 SPYSI

Hearty lunch in a welcoming environment

If you take a winter stroll about the lower part of Bern’s Old City, the *Untere Altstadt*, you might get a real taste of living in Old Bern. This is where a 19th-century relic has survived to this day even if it, too, has undergone some slight changes.

The charitable *Speise- und Suppenanstalt*, popularly known as *Spysi*¹², was established in 1877 to “provide people in need during the winter months with healthy food at an advantageous price”¹³. The *Spysi* proved particularly popular during World War One, when up to 1,600 litres of soup, 1,000 helpings of vegetables and 800 helpings of potatoes were served every day.

Since 1879 the *Spysi* has had its premises at no. 30 *Junkerngasse*, in the former stables of *Erlacherhof* (→62). Little has changed over the past 130 years. For a large part of its outlay, the institution continues to rely on donations and volunteers. But its guests are from a different background: many of today’s eaters work in the *Untere Altstadt* and enjoy this access to very reasonably-priced food.

Long-standing tradition does not have to be at odds with modern technology: the current *Spysi* menus is available on-line.

60 BALDACHIN

A calling card for Bern’s new Station Square

It is bus and tram shelter, weather protection for an entire city square, a striking calling card: the glass canopy of the *Baldachin*, which soars above *Bahnhofplatz*, provides shelter to commuters

rushing from Bern’s main train station to the top end of the Old City. Built in 2007/2008, after years of controversy, its transparent filigree construction and gentle curves make for an elegant contrast with more traditional city sights and the canopy has become a popular landmark. Part of a complete overhaul of *Neuer Bahnhofplatz Bern*, the *Baldachin* was awarded the Swiss Steel Construction Prize, *Prix Acier*, in 2009.



61 "GHOST HOUSE"

Mysterious goings-on in Junkerngasse

Rumour has it that strange noises and a dim light emanate from the windows of no. 54 *Junkerngasse*. Stabled horses are restless and whoever dares to spend the night here risks losing the power of speech, or even their mind. The uninhabited medieval house in a prime location of Bern's Old City has been the object of countless ghost stories.

It has remained empty not so much because of ghosts than owing to its history. Originally the property of Interlaken Monastery, it was used as a warehouse for goods to be sold in the city. Later, the von Erlachs, patrician owners of the grand mansion across the street, stabled their horses and stored their provisions here.

A small old stove in the room on the first floor hints at the fact that coachmen or farmhands would occasionally have stayed in the otherwise unoccupied house. Its emptiness may explain the house's reputation: empty buildings tend to inspire rumours and tales of mystery and horror.

62 ERLACHERHOF

A colourful past for today's seat of the City government

The grand edifice called *Erlacherhof* takes its name from Hieronymus von Erlach. Construction of the baroque-style mansion at no. 47 *Junkerngasse* began in 1745 under orders of the then *Schultheiss* or sheriff of Bern. Although von Erlach was not to see its completion seven years later, he has left his mark on *Erlacherhof*: the size of the courtyard allowed his grand coach to make a full turn and the sandstone pediments of the east and west courtyard façades bear his artfully chiselled monogramme. Occasionally, especially on a stormy day, the *Erlacherhof* fills with creaks and groans said to be the wailings of old Hieronymus' ghost.

In 1798 the mansion was occupied by French troops and used as the headquarters of General Brune, the city commandant. Once the French had left, it served – among other things – as the school for the *Matte* quarter (→69), as the seat of the French embassy, and – until 1848 – as the seat of the city's government. In 1848 Bern was chosen to be the capital of the Swiss Confederation, for which government and parliament buildings had yet to be built. *Erlacherhof* proved to be suitable premises for the first Swiss Federal Council to hold office prior to moving into the newly constructed *Bundesratshaus*, now *Bundeshaus West*.

These days, *Erlacherhof* is the seat of Bern's Mayor and Municipal Council, who meet at the City Council Hall for weekly sessions during which they take decisions of great importance for the city. Who knows, old Hieronymus may well look over the governors' shoulders from time to time.

63 BERN'S BRIDGES

Seventeen times across the Aare river

In the Middle Ages, the tight loop of the Aare river and its steep banks made for natural defenses against enemy attacks. But when the city's population exploded in the 19th century, the Aare presented an obstacle to city development and it was decided to bridge the deep ravine in several places.

For six hundred years, *Untertorbrücke*, the city's Lower Gates and Bridge, was the only access from the east. Originally a 13th-century wooden bridge, two hundred years on it was replaced by a more stable sandstone and tuff bridge whose gates were locked overnight. *Untertorbrücke* was a check-point where anyone wishing to enter had to pay toll into the City's coffers. The very steep

cobblestone streets of *Aargauer-* and *Muristalden* made many a waggoner and his horses work up a sweat.

Today, seventeen bridges leap across the Aare in Bern – not counting the railway and motorway bridges. Among the most striking is *Kirchenfeldbrücke*, built by the Berne Land Company. In 1881 the *Burgergemeinde* (→23) sold off the entire *Kirchenfeld* to the English venture capitalists on condition that they build a high bridge and road network throughout the quarter at their own expense.



64 STADTBACH

Suspended laws of nature?

If you follow the partially exposed *Stadtbach* from *Zytglogge* (→71) to *Nydeggbrücke*, you will make an astonishing discovery: at one point in the lower part of *Gerechtigkeitsgasse*, this small stream suddenly flows upwards after its long journey from *Wangentäl* and in its man-made bed across the suburb of *Bümpliz* and Bern's main train station. So, how come the flow of water suddenly changes direction? It is not another "Miracle of Bern" (→15), but a clever trick. An underground loop redirects the water so that, for a short stretch, it flows back uphill towards the city centre.

*Gegenlauf im Fluss*¹⁴ is a permanent art installation realised in 2005 in the context of the complete infrastructure and road-surface overhaul in *Kram-* and *Gerechtigkeitsgasse*, the Old City's artery. It was only in the course of these works that the stream was brought back to light in the lower part of the Old City, having been banished underground into concrete culverts from 1921 until 2005.

The stream originally flowed through Bern's main and lateral streets, initially in wooden and later sandstone open-top mains. It supplied service water for people's animals and laundry, and to quench the occasional fire. Knowing the *Stadtbach* water to be unclean, city folk always fetched their drinking water (→74) from the many ornate fountains scattered about the heart of Bern.



65 EHGRÄBEN

A medieval sewage system

Wide enough for a yearling pig to be able to turn around in it – that was the minimum width of the so-called *Ehgräben*, Middle-Age sewers in Bern's Old City. A young pig may strike us as a rather unusual measuring unit, but that is how they did it in the Middle Ages.

The original *Ehgräben* were open sewers running in parallel with the city streets between the rows of terraced houses. They were regularly flushed out using the water from the *Stadtbach* (→64). The syllable *Eh* stands for "law", indicating that the sewers marked property boundaries. The medieval *Ehgraben* system is still in use; you can take a tour of the sewers that extend along some eight kilometres or about five miles.

66 COLOURFUL STREET SIGNS

Orientation aid for French occupants

Red, yellow, green, white, black – this is the sequence of background colours for the signs naming the streets in Bern's Old City, starting from *Hirschengraben* and ending at *Nydeggbrücke*. We may well owe the gaudy subdivision of Bern's Old City to the French, as the colourful signs were introduced after Napoleon's troops had overrun Switzerland and taken possession of Bern in 1798. It is said that the colours helped the French soldiers find their way about town, and weave their way back to their quarters after a drinking spree. Schauenburg, the occupation army's general, also had the street names added in French. Today's *Junkerngasse*, for example, was renamed *Rue des Gentils Hommes*, or Squire Street. If you look closely at the corner of no. 58 *Junkerngasse* with *Kreuzgasse*, you may see the historic inscription: the wall still bears its handsome French lettering.





67 BERN MINSTER

Of angels and evil men from Zürich

There are angels everywhere – and devils, too: in the shape of a dragon, a snake, a dog. They even appear in human form, with deep-blue or black bodies, several heads; they are winged and horned. Photographed and admired by thousands of tourists each year, the great *Münster* portal and its graphic representation of Judgment Day is a feast for the eyes. New figures reveal themselves at every glance – a green devil skewering a man in an azure-and-white waistcoat. Among all the naked people slowly roasting in hell he alone wears any clothing. It is thought he may be a representation of the burgomaster of Zürich – Zürich’s coat of arms is azure and white – and a symbol of the period of the Old Zürich War (1436–1450), when Zürich entered into an alliance with the Habsburg emperor and against the Old Confederacy, hence also against Bern.

Construction of the *Münster* began in 1421, and was only finished in 1893, which is when the 101-metre-tall spire was completed. Switzerland’s largest and most important late-medieval church is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Erhart Küng, one of the master builders of the *Münster*, was evidently of this opinion: had an inscription chiselled into one of the sandstone blocks on the south façade of the apse that challenges those who read this to do the same: *Machs na*.

68 NARROW “TOWNHOUSES” IN THE OLD CITY

A model for contemporary architecture

A striking feature of most medieval cities including Bern is the rows of adjoining buildings. In the course of decades and centuries, smaller houses grew into houses rising several floors high, usually with a shop or workshop on the ground floor, and living quarters upstairs under one roof. To prevent housing sprawl, we need to revert to a similar urban design that minimises the waste of ground. Urban planners are calling for a revival of the “townhouse” style to enable cities to increase their housing density and ideally enable residents to live and work in one and the same location.

Some of the houses in Bern’s Old City are a mere four metres wide. Over the centuries, however, they have gobbled up the backyards and gardens, expanding to up to twenty metres in depth. Many of them have been converted into apartment buildings.

69 MATTE

A quarter with its own cant

Well into the 20th century, the *Matte* was a quarter for small-scale industry, artisans and workers. Situated on the bank of the Aare river far below the rest of the Old City, it provided landing sites for boats and log drivers; the abundant water was used by tanners and dyers, and to drive the water wheels of saw and flour mills. And people came to *Matte* to bathe. *Badgasse* (or Bath Street) directly below *Münsterplattform* (→75) was named after the public baths that used to exist there. Bern’s 18th-century residents would go there for a cleansing bath, a massage or a course of cupping. Even Casanova, greatest lover of all time, is said to have sought his pleasure in one of Bern’s *Matte* baths.

Cut off from the Old City on the spur of land that juts out into the Aare loop, the *Matte* residents developed their own dialect or cant. It has since become extinct, but some fragments are still quite well known. *Tunz mer e Ligu Lehm*, for example, means “Hand me a slice of bread.” So-called *Matte-änglich*¹⁵, however, has survived. It is formed by shifting syllables and flattening vowels taken from the Bernese or *Matte* dialects. In 1959 a few remaining speakers established the *Matteänglich-Club* that has kept the cant alive.

70 KORNHAUS

From grain store to cultural venue

“Venice is built on water, but Bern is built on wine.” The proverb alludes to the fact that the vast cellars of the granary on *Kornhausplatz* used to hold huge oak barrels filled with wine produced on cantonal estates in the Vaud region. Vast quantities of wine were also stored in cellars throughout the Old City. Built between 1711 and 1718, the imposing *Kornhaus* also boasts three upper floors originally used to store the city’s grain. The *Kornhauskeller*, popularly known as *Chübu*, has long been a restaurant and bar. Towards the end of the 19th century, a wooden gallery was inserted and Rudolf Mürger was commissioned to paint frescoes on the walls. The *Chübu* walls are still adorned with the coats of arms of Bern’s cantonal districts, as well as frescoes showing the

local fauna and flora, traditional Bernese dresses and various mythological figures such as mermaids and dragons.

Today’s *Kornhaus* is also the home of the *Kornhausbibliotheken*, lending libraries stocking in excess of 134,000 items in diverse media. Books and other media on architecture, design and art can be found at the specialist library for design.

The *Kornhaus* also hosts the *Kornhausforum*, an institution whose exhibitions, events and panel discussions on the topic of urban life inspire lively discussions.



71 ZYTGLOGGE

Ruled by Father Time

Whenever the hordes of tourists assemble to the east of the *Zytglogge*¹⁶ tower, you can be sure that another hour is nearly up. A golden cockerel, a carousel of bears, a fool and a king ready themselves for their next performance, both lovely spectacle and masterpiece of medieval craftsmanship. The cockerel’s hoarse call announcing the event can be heard some three-and-a-half minutes before the full hour. The bears in the uniforms of old city guards embark on their procession while the fool tolls his hour bells – much too early. The cockerel repeats his call. The four strikes of the quarter-hour bell definitely announce the full hour and are the cue for Chronos, the Greek god of time, to turn his sand-clock and raise his scepter in time with the hour bell. Chronos visibly keeps count in time with the golden bell-striker at the very top of the tower. The cockerel’s third crow signals the end of play.

The 800-year-old tower originally formed part of the city fortifications. It was reconstructed after the great fire of Bern in 1405, and transformed into a clock tower. Inside, the complex mechanisms of the clockwork reveal themselves. For centuries wheels, gears, pinions, ratchets and pulleys have worked together to activate the carousel, strike the bells, tell the time and drive the intricate astrolabe that displays seasons, moon phases and much more. Reflecting the medieval world view, the sun, moon and stars circle around the earth in the centre.

GEMÜTLICHKEIT IN BERN



72 BERNESE GEMÜTLICHKEIT

In praise of slowness

They speak 4.9 syllables and walk 1.05 metres per second – on average. Now we have scientific evidence that the Bernese are slow speakers – slower at least than the people in Zürich or in the Valais, whose dialects have shorter vowels and whose speech features fewer pauses. Neither are the Bernese among the fastest walkers: Singaporeans come first, walking almost twice as fast. So what! The Bernese think it is precisely this *Gemütlichkeit* – a refusal to be rushed – that makes this city such a pleasant place to live.

73 MARKTHALLE

Where people come and go

Markthalle Bern – eleven restaurants, four bars, four shops and an Italian ice-cream parlour on two floors. Hungry guests come here to enjoy good food and specialities from several continents.

The original concept for the 1998 conversion of the former production halls of *Leinenweberei* Bern (Linen Mills Ltd.) was to create a covered market arcade emulating those in Mediterranean countries, with market stalls selling fruit and vegetables, baked goods, herbs and spices, fish and meat. Over time, however, the market stalls were replaced by restaurants, take-aways and bars, turning *Markthalle* into more of a buzzing watering-hole and rendez-vous for people from all walks of life.

74 DRINKING WATER *Straight from the fountain*

You may not feel inclined to drink water straight from one of the spouts of *Chindlifräserbrunnen*¹⁷, but rest assured: it is perfectly safe. Quenching your thirst in this manner in the 19th century, however, might have given you typhoid fever. As the city population boomed, the water quality of Bern's fountains deteriorated. They were fed by municipal springs polluted by poorly-managed human and other waste. The misery came to an end when a pressured freshwater system was installed towards the end of the 19th century, bringing water into the city from regional aquifers. Bern's fountains now spout perfectly clean water, which is analysed daily by the municipal laboratory. The biggest part of Bern's drinking water continues to be supplied by aquifers, while the remaining thirteen per-cent originate in springs. Few of the world's cities can boast Bern's high-quality drinking water.



75 MÜNSTERPLATTFORM *The Old City's patio*

The biggest freely-accessible patio in Bern's Old City exudes a French flair. Its location is exquisite, with breathtaking views of rooftops, the Aare river and beyond. Horse-chestnut trees have been providing shade for visitors since the 18th century. The Bernese love the delightful spot: footfall here is higher than at any of Bern's other public parks as people congregate to play *boules*, to have a chat or enjoy a picnic.

Münsterplattform was built to emulate Lausanne's pleasure garden, *Place de la Cathédrale*. Nearly two-hundred years passed between laying the first stone in 1334 and completion of the high retaining walls in 1514. When Bern converted to Protestantism in 1528, those walls were just being backfilled. Religious sculptures were cleared out of the cathedral during the Reformers' iconoclastic fury known as *Bildersturm* and carelessly tossed onto the heaps of rubble. Archeological digs carried out in 1986 caused a sensation as they brought statues of saints back to light. The painted sculptures are now on display at *Historisches Museum Bern*.

The recovery of considerable treasure apart, the terrace has a few more remarkable features. A commemorative plaque on the southern breastwork recounts the miraculous survival on 23rd May 1654 of student Theobald Weinzäpfli and his horse after a 100 foot fall over the parapet. And an electrical lift lovingly called *Senkeltram* has transported people between the low-lying *Matte* quarter (→69) and the *Plattform* since 1897.

76 THE GÄBELBACH VALLEY

Little-known idyll to the west of Bern

Shoppers from out of town who come to the Westside shopping and leisure palace (→100) are barely aware of the idyllic natural environment a mere two hundred metres or yards away. The *Gäbelbach* brook snakes and skips down a valley creating about 16 kilometres of a landscape barely touched by modern life. It provides habitats for threatened animal species such as beavers, badgers, kingfishers and fire or spotted salamanders. Excellent public-transport access makes it a prime recreational area for Bern's city dwellers. But if you walk along the stream you will rarely meet anyone else. It is an area that still awaits to be discovered even by Bern folk.



77 A GREEN CITY

The predominant colour

The Aare river snaking around the city in hues of green that change according to the seasons and the weather; the many meadows, parks and woodlands used by locals and visitors alike for leisure and recreational activities; even many buildings have a green hue – that of the greenish sandstone: Bern is doubtless a green city. Over fifty per-cent of its entire surface area is green – not including its many private gardens and public parks. Some 21,000 trees populate the city's more than 130 parks, 95 playgrounds and other green areas, which are cared for and maintained by the municipal garden office. Also on municipal ground, farmers look after some 1,170 heads of cattle, 2,075 pigs and 596 sheep in over fifty agricultural businesses. Which other European capital can boast this extraordinary mix of rural idyll and first-rate infrastructure?



78 FROM BEAR PIT TO BEAR PARK

More room for Bern's heraldic animal

Bern has a very close relationship to its heraldic animal, the bear. According to legend, city founder Berthold V, Duke of Zähringen, decided to name the settlement after the first animal killed during the hunt. It turned out to be a bear.

Having live bears in the heart of the city is a tradition that goes back to the 15th century, when bears were occasionally kept in the moats. The first *Bärengraben* or Bear Pit was established at *Bärenplatz* (Bear Square) in 1513. In 1861, having been relocated several times, the bears were given a new home at the then new *Bärengraben* at the far end of *Nydeggbücke*.

However, the pit was the object of complaints by animal protectionists from near and far. Before World War One, twenty-four bears were crammed into three small, dank enclosures – conditions difficult to imagine now.

A much more spacious, dedicated [park](#) inaugurated in 2009 allows the two bears Björk and Finn to run around and graze. They can even bathe in a pool that is fed by water straight from the Aare river. Björk's bear cubs, Ursina and Berna, born shortly after her move into the new Bear Park, were a huge attraction to large crowds of people.

79 ZIBELEMÄRIT

A relict from the medieval St. Martinmas fair

Until well into the 20th century, the residents of Bern would do their shopping at the city's traditional weekly markets (→80) initially held in *Marktgasse* and *Kramgasse*, and later expanding into *Spitalgasse*. From the late Middle Ages onwards, a great two-week fair was held on or near St. Martin's Day (11 November), with itinerant merchants offering their specialities. From 1439, an Easter fair completed the cycle of fairs, which were the trade highlights of urban life.

Around 1850 farmers' wives from nearby canton Fribourg discovered a market niche and began to sell beautifully pleated strands of onions on the first day of St. Martin's Fair. *Zibelemärit* was born. The 20th century arrival of new shops and department stores displaced the annual fairs; the Easter Fair disappeared altogether, and *Zibelemärit* is all that remains of St. Martin's Fair. To this day, every fourth Monday in November, it attracts thousands of local, Swiss and international shoppers and revellers, who uphold the medieval tradition of feasting on delicious cheese and onion quiches.



80 BERN'S CITY MARKETS

Where supply meets demand

What kind of a city would Bern be like without its markets? Its charm is due not least to its two regular weekly and great occasional markets such as the geranium market and *Zibelemärit* (→79). Their lively bustle is one of the traditions of Bern and brings people together from all walks of life. In these days of globalised trade and on-line shopping, people yearn for a more authentic way of doing business, and appreciate a centuries-old tradition of supply meeting demand, goods and produce changing hands, and people meeting people – in real life, in real time.

Since the early 20th century, a flower, fruit and vegetable market has been held in *Münstergasse*, on Parliament Square (→21) and in its vicinity every Tuesday and Saturday morning. The faces of vendors and market-goers are cheerful; everyone loves to trade banter, merchandise and stories in a colourful, peaceful atmosphere.



81 TIERPARK DÄHLHÖLZLI

More space for fewer animals

The most beautiful aspect of *Tierpark Dählhölzli*, Bern's city zoo, must be its picturesque location. Stretching from the edge of a woodland called *Dählhölzli* down to the banks of the Aare river, the park-like zoo, most of which is freely accessible, gives pleasure to its visitors as well as to everyone who walks or jogs along the river's right bank. Where else but in Bern can you see European bison and Siberian bears as you go jogging in the woods?

Flooding having destroyed the river bank some years ago, it was decided to make the most of the changed woodland area by the river. Otters, beavers and pelicans now roam about their near-natural enclosures. The nearby children's zoo is home to alpacas, guinea pigs, miniature donkeys and pigs, ponies and pygmy goats. One of its corners has a petting zoo for young and older children.

Until the 1990s about 350 different animal species were kept at *Dählhölzli*. Meanwhile, the zoo has reduced the number of animal species in its care to about two hundred: *Mehr Platz für weniger Tiere* – more space for fewer animals – is its official motto.



82 ELFENAU

Recharge your batteries in a nature reserve

A few minutes from Bern's city centre, you can recharge your batteries in a nature reserve. Honest! *Elfenau* is the most popular natural recreational area on city ground. Ownership was transferred into Bern's hands in 1918 and is now the domain of the municipal garden office. A summer café, exhibitions and cultural events are held in historic buildings of the erstwhile country estate; a large greenhouse is home to a vast assortment of exotic plants.

Elfenau owes its poetic name to Russian Grand Duchess Anna Feodorowna. Having emigrated to Bern, she acquired the *Brunnadern* estate in 1814, and had buildings converted, an English-style park laid out, and the name of the property changed. It could scarcely be more apt: the enchanted meadows in the nature reserve along the Aare river are a paradise for fauna and flora alike. If you're lucky and patient, you might catch a glimpse of the elusive kingfisher. Or maybe it was an elf?

83 GLASBRUNNEN

A place of magic

In a small clearing in the dense woodland of *Bremgartenwald*, there is a fountain. A tapped artesian well feeds water into the basin of *Glasbrunnen*¹⁸. To some, this is simply a place of recreation; to others, however, it is a place of powerful magic and the water from the fountain has special, even healing qualities.

It is likely that the area surrounding *Glasbrunnen* was already sacred to the Celts. To this day, Walpurgis Night celebrations are held at *Glasbrunnen*, and many tales are told about the place. The most charming one concerns a knight called Nägeli and his gorgeous daughter. Not one but three *Schultheissen* or sheriffs married her, having succumbed to her powerful attraction, which she owed to drinking from *Glasbrunnen*. On full-moon nights, she is said to be rinsing her three shiny wedding goblets. Be that as it may, the water is perfectly refreshing and of exquisite quality.

84 BOTANISCHER GARTEN BERN

Palm trees and cacti, orchids and desert flowers in the heart of the city

A time-lapse trip around the world for anyone interested in flora – that's no empty promise: visitors to *Bern's Botanic Garden*, located in the heart of Bern, can travel from the Alps to the Mediterranean, across the desert and into tropical rainforests. Thousands of plant species from all over the world, including countless medicinal herbs, have found a home here – under the open sky, or in one of the spacious greenhouses where you almost get lost among the foliage. Created in 1859 as part of the university, the park extends across over two 2 hectares of land on the south-west facing slope above the Aare river, upstream of the *Lorrainebrücke*. The garden is a place of quiet leisure and relaxation, but also a place where people come for stimulation on the occasion of guided tours, art exhibitions and cultural events throughout the year. On Museum Night ([→25](#)), Bern's Botanic Garden always shows itself in a special light.



85 LOEB-EGGE

Rendez-vous on the doorsteps of Bern's premier department store

Loeb-Egge is more than the forecourt of Loeb's – it is a key part of the city's social life. Since the Loeb family opened Bern's first department store in 1899, its *Loeb-Egge* has been the city's most popular meeting-place for generations of Bernese. Apart from *Bahnhofplatz* (→60), it probably has Bern's highest footfall figures.

In earlier times a man selling the daily paper used to stand here shouting the name of his paper. A courtesy telephone attached to a wall away from the rain allowed late-comers to inform their party. If you heard the phone ring, you would pick up the receiver and pass on the message: "Thomas, your girl-friend will be here in half an hour!" Both phone and newspaper salesman have vanished, but waiting under the generous awning is still more of a people-watching pastime than a pain. Suddenly you stop caring about having missed your bus. Decade after decade, young people have spent their evenings here, waiting for the bus, a friend – or simply for something to happen.

86 ILLUSTRIOUS BERNESE INDIVIDUALS

Life histories written in Bern

Like other cities with centuries of history, Bern has produced some memorable personalities. One of its more eccentric citizens was Elisabeth de Meuron (1882–1980), better known as Madame de Meuron. The heiress to a wealthy patrician family owned country estates and castles as well as a number of properties in Bern's Old City. Madame de Meuron was a striking figure: after the suicide of her son, she always wore mourning, including a wide-brimmed black straw hat, and in her later days at least, carried an ear trumpet. She was also notorious for her haughtiness and pride of rank. She would ask, *Syt der öpper oder nämet der Lohn?*¹⁹, betraying her readiness to impose her view of the proper social order.

At the other end of the social ladder was Karl Tellenbach (1877–1931), also known as *Dällebach Kari*. The master hair stylist, whose salon was in *Neuengasse*, was not allowed to marry his beloved, a factory-owner's daughter. This unhappy love and a harelip turned him into an eccentric known all over the city for his wit and comical talent. His tragic life – ill with cancer, he committed suicide by throwing himself from the *Kornhaus* bridge – has inspired plays, musicals and films.

Many other illustrious individuals who have made their mark on Bern have had streets and squares named after them. *Max-Daetwyler-Platz*, a square near the suburban train station *Wankdorf*, for example, honours Max Daetwyler (1886-1976), a conscientious objector and pacifist. In 1915 he founded the "Peace Army" association, spending the rest of his life agitating for peace among nations, a white-bearded man carrying a white flag on his long peace marches all over the world.

BERN ON THE MOVE



87 VELOSTADT BERN

The quickest way

You pack the kids into the bicycle trailer, drop them off at the day-care centre, stop briefly at the baker's and cycle on to work.

This is a daily routine for hundreds of mothers and fathers in Bern. In summer, 28 per-cent of Bern's inhabitants use their bicycles every day. They like taking their *Drahtesel* or "wire donkey" from A to B, despite their city's challenging terrain caused by the deep ravine of the Aare river with steep inclines, and cobblestone streets in the Old City that rattle cyclists' bones and cycles' nuts and bolts.

Bern is a bicycle-friendly city: it has about 8,000 public bicycle stands and several bicycle storage facilities with theft-proof racks. And the city's 74,000 households own about 100,000 bicycles – twice the number of cars.

From May until late October, even visitors from out of town can explore the city on two wheels. *Bern rollt*²⁰ – a social integration project for the unemployed – operates three hire stations: pick up your bicycle, scooter and electro-bike up for the day from one of the stations at *Hirschen-graben*, *Milchgässli* (*Velostation*) or *Zeughausgasse* – free of charge!



88 GURTEN

Bern's own mountain

People in Zürich have their Uetliberg; in Solothurn, they find recreation on Weissenstein; the Pilatus is it for Lucernese; and Genevans have Mont Salève. Bern's mountain is the Gurten. It is as much part of the city as the Aare river.

If you cannot hike to the top that rises to 864 metres, use the comfortable red [Gurten funicular](#) railway that has ferried visitors up and down the steep gradient for over a hundred years.

Gurten provides all kinds of year-round open-air entertainment to young and old. Generations of children and their families have come to the play park for a ride on the miniature steam trains. Climb to the top of the nearby steel-and-timber viewing tower for a particularly good view of the city, the Alps and the Jura range. But the downhill track is only for trained cyclists, who race down the 2 kilometres descending 370 metres at hair-raising speed.

In winter the Gurten becomes what is probably the world's smallest ski paradise where children come to practice their first curves or race down the gentle slope on their toboggans before the kiddie-lift pulls them back up again. You can rent snow shoes to explore the winter landscape. Afterwards, cold hands and feet quickly warm up again over a cup of hot chocolate at the restaurant. Next to it, two ski-jumping tables rise into the air. Built in 1987, they are the focus of three annual international junior events where you can admire tomorrow's ski-jumping stars.

Every summer, in mid-July, tens of thousands of festival-goers flock to the Gurtenfestival ([→54](#)).

89 ZAFFARAYA

Generations practice alternative living

To some, Zaffaraya Free-State was an eyesore. To others, a project exploring alternative forms of living far removed from bourgeois conventions. In the context of the 1980s youth unrests, some young people squatted an empty building in the Mattenhof quarter, establishing ZAFF, an alternative youth centre. When the police cleared the building in 1985, the young people set up their tents and improvised shacks in the grounds of the old gas works, the *Gaswerkareal*. This was the birth of *Freies Land Zaffaraya*. Its forcible removal by the police two years later was accompanied by fierce protests and triggered heated debates and political rallies. While the tough action found favour with the conservative parties and large parts of Bern's population, the streets of Bern presented a different picture: solidarity with the Zaffarayans was immense and sustained. It is owing to their support and the young people's staying power that Zaffaraya still exists, and *Reitschule* ([→30](#)) with it. In the Neufeld on the outskirts of the city, a community have been leading the alternative lifestyles of their choice for over twenty years.

90 BEGEGNUNGSZONEN

Go very slow in residential areas

Children playing football or hopscotch, skipping rope or drawing faces on the ground – in the middle of a city street? In Bern 65 so-called *Begegnungszonen* give priority to pedestrians and neighbours can enjoy a chat as traffic crawls past at 20 kmh.

Bern is Switzerland's pioneer and top of the leaderboard in terms of *Begegnungszonen*. Ten years ago, the city council took the initiative to provide clear instructions to residents on how to obtain permission to transform their neighbourhood streets into areas where people rather than traffic hold sway. Since then most such conversions have actually been initiated by local residents. If a simple majority of them sign a request, their residential street will usually be transformed into a *Begegnungszone*. Modest but effective interventions have created space for neighbourly encounters on their doorsteps in streets from A for *Alpeneggstrasse* to Z for *Zeigerweg*.

91 AARESCHWIMMEN

Slow-down, Bernese style

On a hot summer's day, thousands of bathing-fun seekers converge on *Marzilibad*, the bathing park where [swimming in the Aare](#) river has its origins. The ritual is always the same: you join the snaking crowd of people in swimsuits who slowly walk upriver to *Schönausteg*, brace themselves for the cold water and take the plunge from the slippery steps that descend the river bank. And then it's sheer bliss as you drift downriver, maybe turning on your back and listening to the whispering of the pebbles on the riverbed below.



After about ten minutes, the river makes a wide right bend and the *Bundeshaus* and the *Marzili* come into view and you have to clamber up one of the flights of steps with handrails – much too soon.

It is not only the clean river water, but also the city's skyline that ensure a swim in the Aare river in Bern is an unforgettable experience. A word of warning: you have to be a strong, practiced swimmer to brave the Aare waters.



92 THE SWISS WOMEN'S RUN

From beginners to top athletes

The *Swiss Women's Run*, initiated in 1987, has become an international sports event. Held in June, over 13,000 runners have made it Continental Europe's biggest women's run and the biggest women's sports event in Switzerland. Contestants run through the heart of Bern, enjoy the great views of the Alps from the *Monbijou-* and *Kirchenfeld* bridges, and reach Parliament Square (→21) after a challenging loop through the Old City. The main run over five kilometres not only attracts the world's elite but also spectators from all over Switzerland. Thousands of encouraging on-lookers generate a buzz that pushes even the greenest beginners to give peak performances.

93 PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN BERN

In transit – the environmentally friendly way

Forty-four per-cent of Bernese households do without a car. Compared with the Swiss average of nineteen per-cent, this is a high rate. Residents of Bern can easily go without a car. They walk or take the bicycle (→87) for short distances and an excellent public transport system takes them across longer distances. Each year *Bernmobil* transports over ninety million passengers. Just shy of forty kilometres of track for five tram lines criss-cross the city. The lines of buses and trolleybuses extend across a total of over 77 kilometres. Thirty of the city's buses drive around on CO₂-neutral biogas; hydro- and biogas electricity makes the trams environmentally friendly, too.

Thirteen train stations dot city territory, with *Hauptbahnhof* Bern the biggest of them all. The transit hub for long-distance, regional and local travellers is an important element of Switzerland's public transport network. And if you missed your last bus or train, or would like to stay out a little longer, you can always count on the *Moonliner*: every Friday and Saturday night, a network of twenty night bus lines makes sure that night owls get safely to their homes in a large area of the canton of Bern.

94 GRAND-PRIX VON BERN

The world's most beautiful ten miles

When Bern's jogging paths get crowded along the Aare river or in the woodlands of *Dählhölzli* (→81) or Bremgarten, the *Grand-Prix von Bern* is imminent. If you're among those who have been in training for the past year, you will come across those who have only just decided to take part and are trying to get fit for.

Even though members of the running elite take part, the *Grand-Prix von Bern* – GP for short, is a fun run in May that attracts more than 20,000 runners in four categories. The original route is sixteen kilometres or ten miles long, and takes participants into the Old City and across the Matte quarter (→69), along the Aare river, through *Dählhölzliwald*, across the embassy quarter and *Monbijoubrücke*, and back into the Old City. A final challenge, one kilometre before the finish line, is the incline of Aargauerstalden with an elevation gain of almost fifty metres. This is the point where even those who managed to do without the support of the many spectators lining the route will appreciate any encouragement.



95 SCHLITTSCHUH-CLUB BERN – SCB

When beards grow long

When beards grow unchecked, it is playoff time, a period when the players of SCB, Bern's Ice-hockey Club, come to resemble their logo with the hairy bear – both in terms of aggressiveness and in the way they look. Bern is a sport-crazy city. In summer, Bernese hearts beat for football, also known as soccer; in winter it's ice hockey that drives them mad. SCB is the traditional companion star of BSC Young Boys (→96). Established in the 1930s, SCB have won the Master Cup twelve times. But they have also seen bad times when the club was relegated to the B-class of the National League; in the late 1990s, they were even on the brink of bankruptcy. But the club's supporters always kept faith. No other European ice-hockey club have more spectators than SCB. An average of 15,000 attend each game in Bern. Supporters had to wait until 2010, however, to celebrate their team's home win of the Master Cup. Before that glorious day, the "Bern Bears" had always played the deciding game away.

The ice stadium, built in the 1960s and given a striking roof a few years later, was renamed *PostFinance-Arena* following a complete overhaul in 2007.

96 BSC YOUNG BOYS – YB

Pushed aside by potatoes

YB stands for agony, boundless joy, the delirium of victory and a vast football family wearing YB's gold and black. YB also stands for a piece of Bern history. Bern's football club was established in 1898. From 1909 the team were crowned champions three years in a row. Now they play on artificial turf at the modern *Stade de Suisse*. But the Young Boys had to move their premises about a few times, starting out at *Schwellenmätteli* below *Kirchenfeldbrücke*, and celebrating their triumphs of the early 20th century on the wide open spaces of *Spitalacker*. However, during World War One, that field was dug up to grow potatoes. The autumn of 1925 saw the inauguration of *Wankdorfstadion* (→15), where – in four consecutive years in the 1950s – YB were the celebrated winners of the Swiss championship and two cup finals. In 2001 the remainders of legendary *Wankdorfstadion* were blasted to smithereens to make way for *Stade de Suisse*, which was inaugurated in 2005. The new stadium accommodates 32,000 spectators; it produces electricity from 7,000 solar panels on its rooftops extending across 12,000 square metres.



97 BERN LOVES TO SKATE

Natural or artificial ice – what matters is the smoothness

Schlöfle or skating is an old Bernese tradition. Alongside Bern's ice rinks, the small *Egelsee* pond in Bern's *Schosshalde* quarter freezes over in harsh winters. That is when people who love skating on natural ice really come into their own.

In the 1960s Bern's children would set up their home-made ice-hockey goals in the courtyard of *Erlacherhof* (→62) to enjoy their game on skates in a prominent location. We don't know how they made the ice. But Bern's most recent ice rink is fondly remembered: for a few years, part of Parliament Square (→21) was transformed into a place where skaters were able to glide across the ice, free of charge, in the very heart of the city and against a unique backdrop.

98 ENERGIESTADT BERN

Gold for Bern's energy policy

When it comes to getting personally involved in environmentally friendly power supply, the residents of Bern are top of the pile. More than half of all households have opted to buy energy from renewable sources from the municipal power generator, *Energie Wasser Bern* (*ewb*), which guarantees to supply hydroelectricity at a minimal premium. And a remarkable nine per-cent of all private *ewb* customers have opted for significantly higher-priced certified eco-electricity.

Its environmentally friendly electricity supply is one reason why the city of Bern was awarded the label *Energiestadt* Gold in 2010. An independent committee, the *Energiestadt* association, awards the "Energy City" label to municipalities that operate a sustainable energy policy. The golden label means that Bern has risen into the "Champions League" of sustainable cities. Another reason for its success is the municipal strategy to go nuclear free by 2039.

99 RESIDING IN BERN

Sustainability and quality of life

The quality of life in Bern is very high. Depending on individual inclination, people can pursue a more leisurely way of life or an urban lifestyle. The past few years have seen a noticeable trend of people returning to the city, whose population has been on the increase. As housing has become more scarce, many flats are rented or sold even before the homes have been built. With infrastructure facilities shifting to the urban periphery, large tracts of brownfield land have become available for housing in attractive locations. Bern boasts its Switzerland's first ever car-free housing development, *Siedlung Burgunder*. Its charitable funders *npg AG* and *wok Burgunder* took sustainability very seriously indeed and these homes comply with the Swiss *Minergie-P* standard. Moreover, tenants participated in the design of their homes and surroundings.

The city's pull on people is not a recent phenomenon. A hundred years ago, Bern saw decades of significant population increase. But whereas in 1920 every flat or house was occupied by an average of 4.3 individuals, today's occupancy rate is just 1.75 persons per home.



100 CITY DEVELOPMENT TO THE WEST OF BERN

Great news from the western "front"

The city has been expanding west, incorporating the *Brünnen* quarter where contemporary architecture makes for an interesting contrast with large blocks of flats and high-rises from the 1960s and 1970s that is well worth a visit. And the *Brünnengut park* is the perfect place for a gentle stroll, to kick a ball about, or to enjoy a picnic.

Also, *Brünnen* residents find the *Westside* leisure and shopping complex virtually on their doorstep. The centre with its many oblique walls, spikes and serrations bears the inimitable imprint of star architect Daniel Libeskind.

Once completed, *Brünnen* will provide new housing for some 2,600 people who will enjoy uniquely excellent access to public transport: trains of the rapid suburban *S-Bahn* run to the centre every fifteen minutes, tramway no. 8 even every six minutes.

Much patience and time, however, was required to plan the new quarter. Already towards the end of the 1960s, Bern's west-end was to see a satellite city for 20,000 inhabitants rise up from green fields. But the oil crisis, followed by a rejection of the project by plebiscite, and a deep real-estate crisis sent the plans to the shredder. It was only when advance funding for the platform covering the motorway became available through *Migros*, Switzerland's biggest retail chain, that new blueprints could be presented. In 1999, Bern's voters at last approved planning for the new housing development and a leisure and shopping centre.

NOTES

- 1 Instructions on travelling about Switzerland in the most useful and enjoyable manner.
- 2 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in letter no. 349 of 9 Oct 1779 to Frau Charlotte von Stein, <http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/buch/3653/36>, accessed on 25 Aug 2011 (emphases by Goethe; English by MP-J).
- 3 The *Rütli* meadow on Lake Lucerne is the Swiss Confederation's mythical and official birthplace.
- 4 *PROGR* is the popular Bernese short form of Progymnasium (grammar school).
- 5 *Dampfzentrale* Bern, Mission statement 2007–2012 (English by MPJ).
- 6 German: Klee, Felix (ed.) 1957: *Paul Klee, Tagebücher 1898-1918*, Köln: DuMont Schauberg, p. 307 (English by MPJ after Partsch, Susanna: *Paul Klee 1879–1940*, Cologne: Taschen Basic Art, 1993).
- 7 *Millefleurs* = French for “a thousand flowers”, echoing the tapestries’ many-flowered backgrounds
- 8 *Chlyklass-Kollektiv* = Bernese for Collective class for special-needs children
- 9 “Doctor, doctor, I need a prick to rap and stuff, I’d get a good kick.”
- 10 <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/7486.html>, accessed in September 2011.
- 11 <http://www.zitate-online.de/sprueche/wissenschaftler/18523/eine-wirklich-gute-idee-erkennt-man-daran.html>, accessed by the authors of the German version on 13 July 2011.
- 12 *Spysi* = Bernese abbreviation of Speise- und Suppenanstalt = eating house and soup kitchen
- 13 Extract from item 1 of the regulations of 1877: “... *der hilfsbedürftigen Bevölkerung während der Winterzeit gesunde Nahrung zu vorteilhaftem Preis anzubieten.*”
- 14 *Gegenlauf im Fluss* = Counterflow in Flux, an installation by Martin Beyeler
- 15 *Matte* “English”, a form of Pig Latin
- 16 *Zytglogge* = Bernese for “time bell”
- 17 *Chindlifrässer* = Bernese for ogre, a monstrous mythical creature that devoured children
- 18 *Glasbrunnen* = glass fountain or spring; “glas” may be related to Middle High-German/Bernese “glast” (radiance).
- 19 “Are you somebody, or do you draw wages?”
- 20 *Bern rollt* could be translated as “Bern on wheels”, or “Bern rolls”.

PHOTO CREDITS

- Annette Boutellier: pp. 19, 29, 31, 37, 49, 50, 59, 60, 62, 86, 87
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REFERENCES AND LINKS

The following is a list of our most important sources of information. Also listed in numerical order are websites of portrayed institutions, locations and events. Many websites are only available in German.

Should you wish to know more about the history of the city of Bern, please contact the City Archives. They will be happy to answer your questions and provide documents:

Stadtarchiv Bern
Helvetiastrasse 6
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stadtarchiv@bern.ch

Important publications (in German):

- Barth, Robert; Erne, Emil; Lüthi, Christian (eds.) (2003), *Bern – die Geschichte der Stadt im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert*, Bern: Stämpfli Verlag.
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Important on-line resources:

- Bern Tourism: www.berninfo.com
- Wikipedia – the Free Encyclopedia: www.wikipedia.de
- Historical Dictionary of Switzerland: www.hls-dhs-dss.ch
- Platform for art, culture and society: www.g26.ch
- City of Bern: www.bern.ch

The contents also make use of various talks and newspaper articles – primarily from *Berner Zeitung* and *Der Bund*.

Bern in the World

- 4 Haller Project: www.haller.unibe.ch
- 5 Kunsthalle Bern: www.kunsthalle-bern.ch
- 7 World Trade Institute: www.wti.org
- 8 University of Bern: www.unibe.ch;
Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research: www.oeschger.unibe.ch
- 9 UNESCO World Heritage in Switzerland: www.welterbe.ch

The World in Bern

- 11 Bern Tourism: www.berninfo.com
- 13 Inter-Parliamentary Union: www.ipu.org;
Peace Bureau: www.ipb.org
- 14 Universal Postal Union: www.upu.int

Politics in Bern

- 17 Centre of Politics Bern:
www.politzentrum.bern.ch;
Swiss government: www.admin.ch
- 19 Kinderbüro and Children's Parliament:
www.bern.ch/kinderbern;
Neighbourhood participation: www.bern.ch/leben_in_bern/stadt/quartiermitwirkung; Youth Council: www.jugendratbern.ch;
Seniors' Council: www.bern.ch/stadtverwaltung/bss/av/alter/ratfuersenioren
- 20 Political Forum at Käfigturm: www.kaefigturm.ch
- 21 Parliament Square: www.bundesplatz.ch
- 23 Burgergemeinde Bern: www.burgergemeindebern.ch

Culture in Bern

- 25 Museum Night: www.museumsnacht-bern.ch
- 26 Bern ist überall:
www.menschenversand.ch/ueberall
- 27 Kellerkino: www.kellerkino.ch
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- 31 Berne's Museums: www.museen-bern.ch;
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www.bern.ch/stadtarchiv
- 33 Club Bonsoir: www.bonsoir.ch;
Liquid Club: www.liquid-bern.ch;
Café-Bar Turnhalle: www.turnhalle-bern.ch
- 34 Dampfzentrale: www.dampfzentrale.ch
- 36 Buskers: www.buskersbern.ch
- 37 Bee-Flat: www.bee-flat.ch;
Bejazz: www.bejazz.ch
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- 41 Historisches Museum Bern: www.bhm.ch
- 42 Zentrum Paul Klee: www.zpk.org
- 43 Chlyklass: www.chlyklass.ch; Steff la Cheffe:
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Züri West: www.zueriwest.ch
- 45 Robert Walser Centre: www.robertwalser.ch
- 47 Berner Troubadours: www.berner-troubadours.ch
- 48 Natural History Museum Bern: www.nmbe.ch
- 49 Shnit Short Film Festival: www.shnit.org
- 51 Reverend Beat Man and his Label Voodoo Rhythm: www.voodooorhythm.com
- 52 StattLand association: www.stattland.ch
- 53 Berner Stadtheater: www.stadttheaterbern.ch;
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- 55 Schlachthaus Theater: www.schlachthaus.ch;
Tojo Theater: www.tojo.ch; Matte Theater:
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ONO: www.onobern.ch
- 56 Adolf Wölfli Foundation: www.adolfwoelfli.ch

Bern's Old City

- 58 Einstein House: www.einstein-bern.ch
- 59 Spysi: www.spysi.ch
- 67 Bern Minster: www.bernermuenster.ch
- 69 Matteänglisch-Club Bärn: www.matteaenglisch.ch
- 70 Kornhauskeller: www.kornhauskeller.ch;
Kornhausforum: www.kornhausforum.ch;
Kornhaus Bibliotheken:
www.kornhausbibliotheken.ch
- 71 Zytglogge: www.zytglogge-bern.ch

Gemütlichkeit in Bern

- 73 Markthalle: www.markthalle-bern.ch
78 Bear Park: www.baerenpark-bern.ch
80 Bern's City Markets: www.markt-bern.ch
81 Tierpark Dählhölzli: www.tierpark-bern.ch
82 Elfenau Orangerie:
www.orangerie-elfenau.ch
84 Botanic Garden: www.botanischergarten.ch

Bern On the Move

- 87 Bern rollt: www.bernrollt.ch
88 Gurten funicular railway: www.gurtenbahn.ch
90 Begegnungszonen:
www.bern.ch/begegnungszonen
91 Water temperature of Aare river and more:
www.aaremarzili.info
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Moonliner: www.moonliner.ch
94 Grand-Prix von Bern: www.gpbern.ch
95 SC Bern: www.scb.ch;
PostFinance-Arena: www.postfinancearena.ch
96 BSC Young Boys: www.bsbyb.ch;
Stade de Suisse: www.stadedesuisse.ch
98 Energiestadt Bern: www.bern.ch/energiestadt;
Energie Wasser Bern: www.ewb.ch
99 Current residential development projects in the
city of Bern: www.bern.ch/wohnstadt;
Burgunder estate: www.burgunder-bern.ch
100 Brünnen city quarter: www.bruennen.ch;
Brünnengut park: www.bruennengut.ch;
Westside: www.westside.ch

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

City of Bern
Erlacherhof
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Information for new residents:
www.bern.ch/neuzuziehen

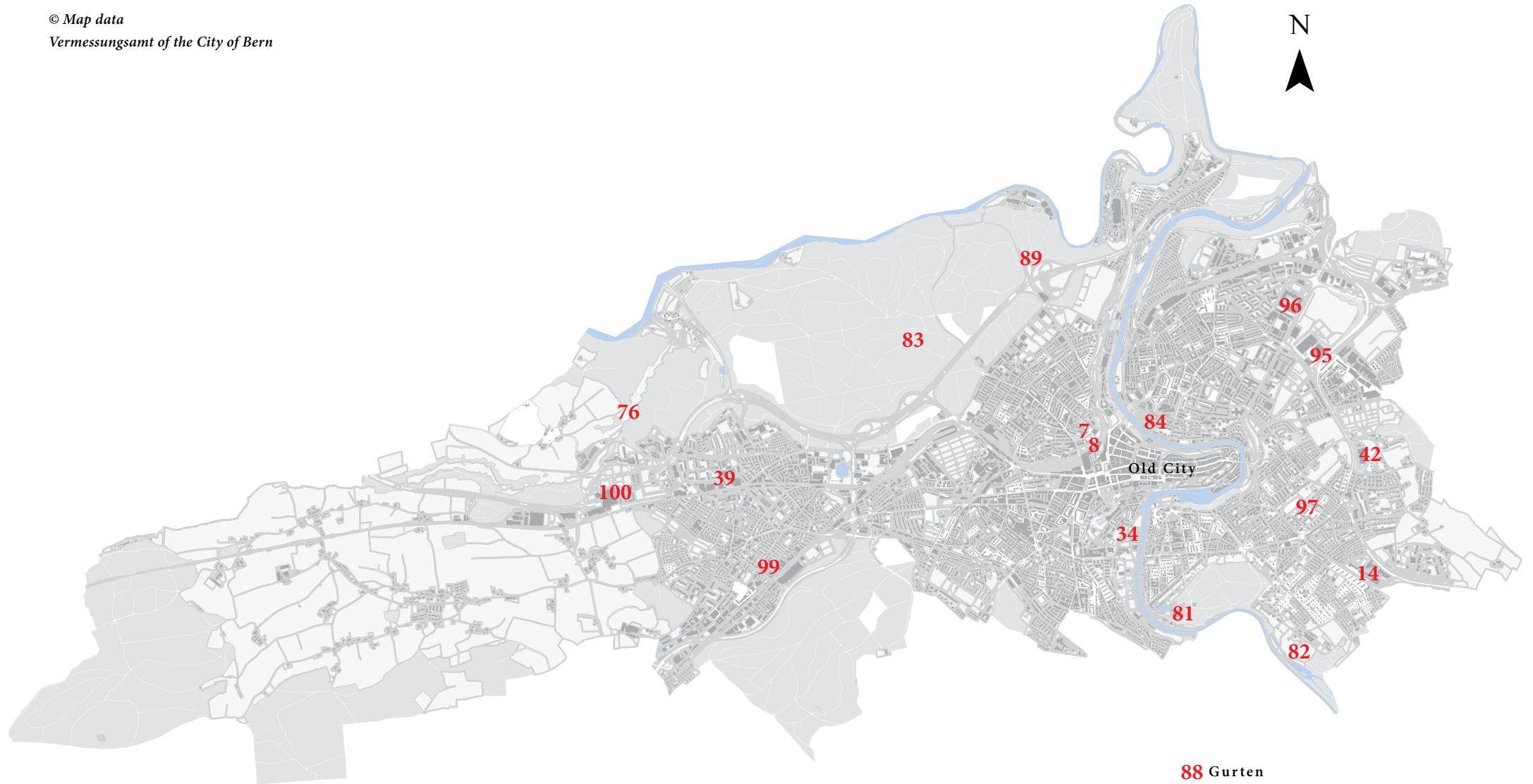
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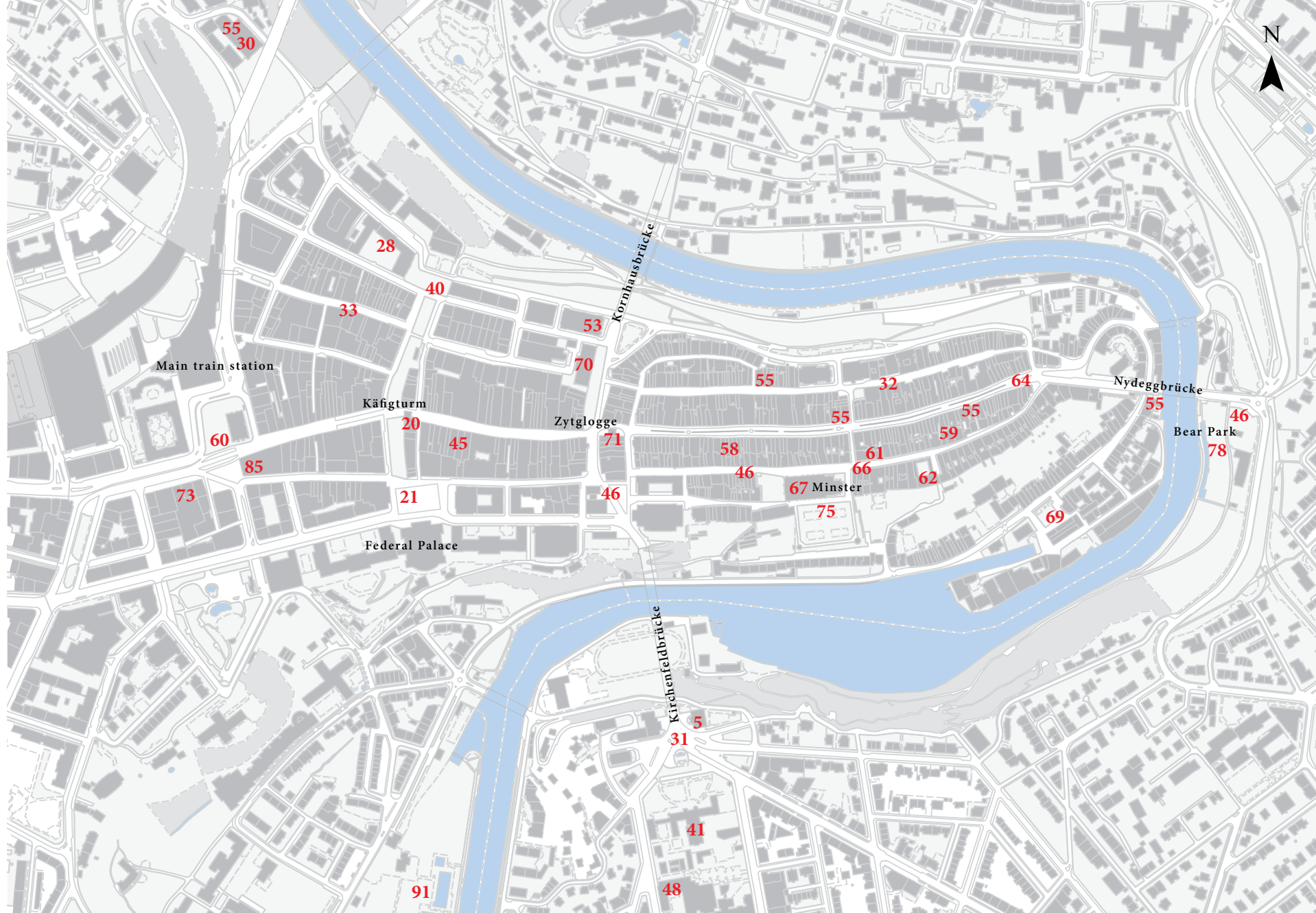
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- Huber, Werner / Uldry, Dominique (eds.) (2009), *Building Bern. Contemporary Architecture Guide 1990–2010*, Zürich: Edition Hochparterre bei Scheidegger & Spiess.

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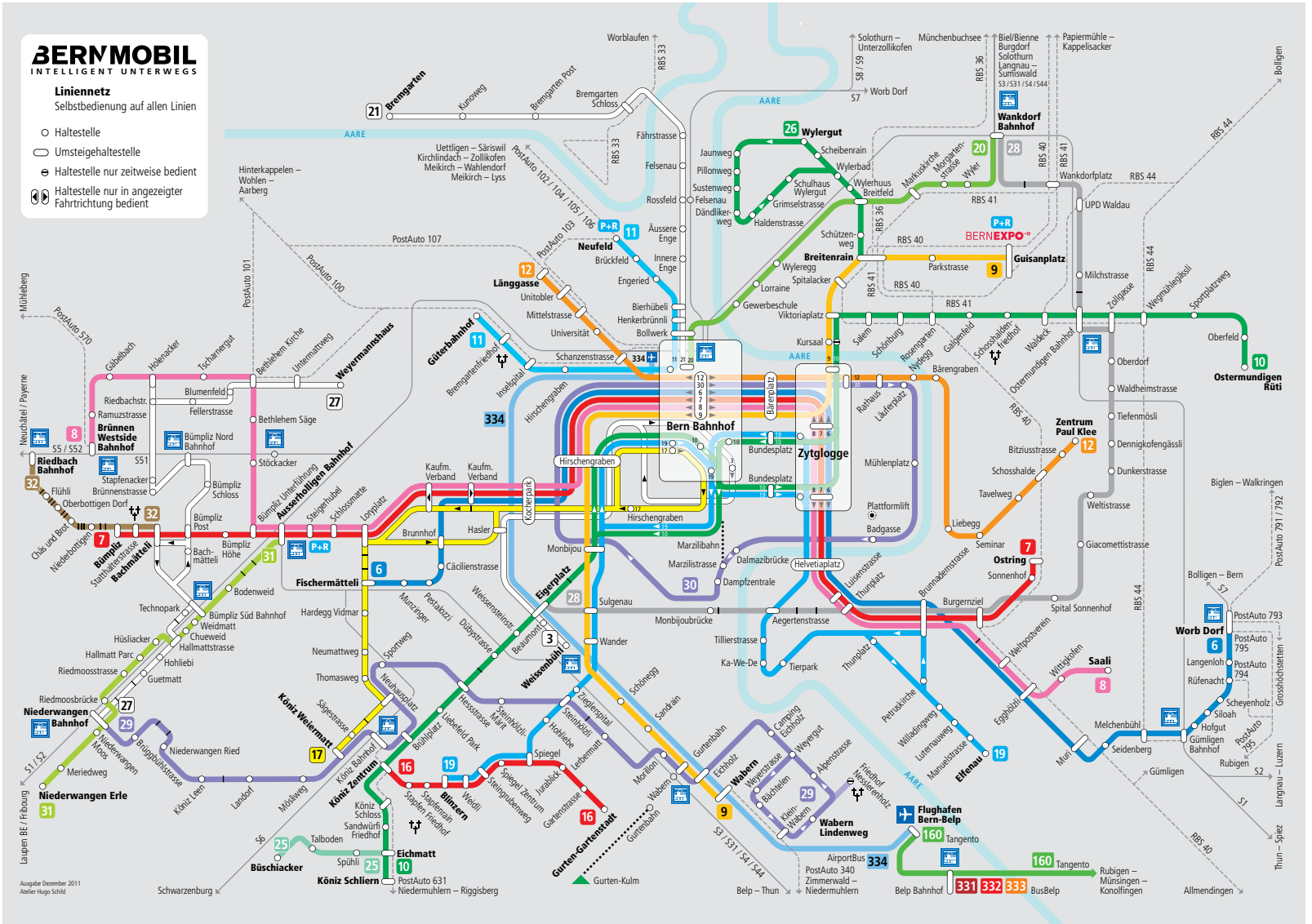
BERN MOBIL

INTELLIGENT UNTERWEGS

Liniennetz

Selbstbedienung auf allen Linien

- Haltestelle
- Umsteigehaltestelle
- ⊖ Haltestelle nur zeitweise bedient
- ⊖ Haltestelle nur in angezeigter Fahrtrichtung bedient



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