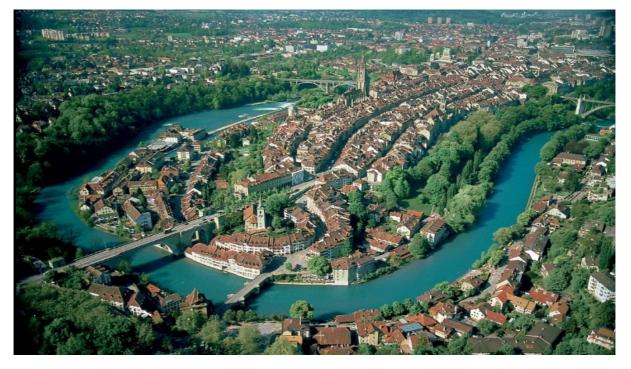**May 11th visiting Berne - Federal City**
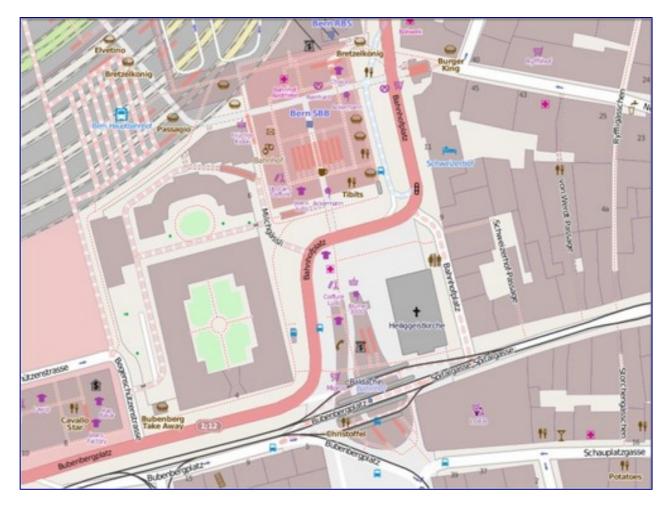

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The city of **Bern** or **Berne** is the de facto capital of Switzerland, referred to by the Swiss as their (e.g. in German) *Bundesstadt,* or "federal city".With a population of 139,321 Bern is the fourth most populous city in Switzerland. The Bern agglomeration, which includes 36 municipalities, has a population of 328,616 in 2000. The metropolitan area had a population of 660,000 in 2000. Bern is also the capital of the Canton of Bern, the second most populous of Switzerland's cantons. The official language of Bern is (the Swiss variety of Standard) German, but the main spoken language is the Alemannic Swiss German dialect called Bernese German.

In 1983 the historic old town in the centre of Bern became a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Bern is ranked among the world's top ten cities for the best quality of life (2010).[7]

No archaeological evidence that indicates a settlement on the site of today′s city centre prior to the 12th century has been found so far. In antiquity, a Celtic *oppidum* stood on the "Engehalbinsel" north of Bern, fortified since the 2nd century BC (late La Tène period), thought to be one of the twelve oppida of the Helvetii mentioned by Caesar. During the Roman era, there was a Gallo-Roman *vicus* on the same site.

Programm
8.15h Meeting Point in Solothurn: On the platform RBS, near ticket machine
8.19 h Train to Berne from Solothurn
8.26 h departure Lohn
8.56 h Arrival in Berne Christoffelturm Heiliggeistkriche Loeb

Zytglogge Tower http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zytglogge
The **Zytglogge** (Bernese German: /ˈt͡sitˌklɔkːə/) tower is a landmark medieval tower in Bern, Switzerland. Built in the early 13th century, it has served the city as guard tower, prison, clock tower, centre of urban life and civic memorial.

Despite the many redecorations and renovations it has undergone in its 800 years of existence, the Zytglogge is one of Bern's most recognisable symbols and, with its 15th-century astronomical clock, a major tourist attraction. It is a heritage site of national significance,[1] and part of the Old City of Bern, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site.

Münster http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bern_Minster
The **Bern Minster** (German: *Berner Münster*) is a Swiss Reformed cathedral, (or minster) in the old city of Bern, Switzerland. Built in the Gothic style, its construction started in 1421. Its tower, with a height of 100.6 m (330 ft), was only completed in 1893. It is the tallest cathedral in Switzerland and is a Cultural Property of National Significance.[1]
10-12 special Programm School
12.30 h Lunch at a selfsevice restaurant (Migros Marktgasse)
13.30 h Leaving by bus, tram/ by foot 10 minutes of walking
14h Visiting "Berne Show" with explanations about Bernes past
14.30 Walk to Rosengarten, park with beautiful view over the town, possibility to drink coffee
The Rose Garden (*Rosengarten*), from which a scenic panoramic view of the medieval town centre can be enjoyed, is a well-kept Rosarium on a hill, converted into a park from a former cemetery in 1913. http://www.bern.com/en/city-of-bern/attractions/the-rose-garden

 16 h Back to the town with bus, visiting the buildings casino and parliament
Das Casino wurde von den Architekten Paul Lindt und Max Hofmann im spätbarocken Klassizismus für 1,7 Mio. Franken erbaut und nach nur zweijähriger Bauzeit 1909 eröffnet. Es beherbergte von Anfang an neben Kultur auch ein Restaurant und mehrere kleine Gaststätten. Im

Laufe der Jahrzehnte wurde das Casino zahlreiche Male umgebaut und renoviert, was der ursprünglichen architektonischen Qualität erheblich schadete. Nur mit grossem finanziellem Aufwand konnten mehrere dieser Umwandlungen in der Renovationszeit von 1979 bis 1991 wieder rückgängig gemacht werden. Die 33,5 Mio. welche die Burgergemeinde Bern in den letzten zwanzig Jahren investierte, haben sich gelohnt, das Haus erstrahlt heute in neuem Glanz.

The Federal Palace (German: *Bundeshaus*, French: *Palais fédéral*,

Federal Palace is the name of the building in Bern in which the Swiss Federal Assembly (federal parliament) and the Federal Council are housed. It consists of a central parliament building and two wings (eastern and western) housing government departments and a library.

The two chambers where the National Council and the Council of States meet are separated by the *Hall of the Dome*. The dome itself has an external height of 64 m, and an internal height of 33 m. The mosaic in the center represents the Federal coat of arms along with the Latin motto *Unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno* (*One for all, and all for one*), surrounded by the coat of arms of the 22 cantons that existed in 1902. The coat of arms of the Canton of Jura, created in 1979, was placed outside of the mosaic.

The name in German and Romansh both mean "federal house", whereas the French and Italian names both translate to "Federal Palace".

Free time for shopping or more strolling in Berne
17.20 Meeting **as told** near train station
17.35 Departure from Berne to Solothurn
18.04 Arriving Lohn
18.12 Arriving Solothurn, Diner with host family

More History

The structure of Bern's city centre is largely medieval and has been recognised by UNESCO as a Cultural World Heritage Site. Perhaps its most famous sight is the *Zytglogge* (Bernese German for "Time Bell"), an elaborate medieval clock tower with moving puppets. It also has an impressive 15th century Gothic cathedral, the *Münster*, and a 15th-century town hall. Thanks to 6 kilometres (4 miles) of arcades, the old town boasts one of the longest covered shopping promenades in Europe.

Since the 16th century, the city has had a bear pit, the *Bärengraben*, at the far end of the Nydeggbrücke to house its heraldic animals.
Albert Einstein lived in a flat at the Kramgasse 49, the site of the Einsteinhaus, from 1903 to 1905, the year in which the Annus Mirabilis Papers were published.

There are eleven Renaissance allegorical statues on public fountains in the Old Town. Nearly all the 16th century fountains, except the Zähringer fountain which was created by Hans Hiltbrand, are the work of the Fribourg master Hans Gieng. One of the more interesting fountains is the Kindlifresserbrunnen (Bernese German: Child Eater Fountain but often translated Ogre Fountain) which is claimed to represent a Jew,[21] the Greek god Chronos or a Fastnacht figure that scares disobedient children.

It includes the entire Old Town, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and many sites within and around it. Some of the most notable in the Old Town include the Cathedral which was started in 1421 and is the tallest cathedral in Switzerland, the Zytglogge and Käfigturm towers, which mark two successive expansions of the Old Town, and the Holy Ghost Church, which is one of the largest Swiss Reformed churches in Switzerland. Within the Old Town, there are eleven 16th century fountains, most attributed to Hans Gieng, that are on the list.

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