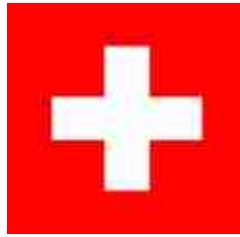


After having stayed for two nights in Luxembourg on this Inter Rail trip, we pushed on to [Bern](#), which is the capital of [Switzerland](#). The railway station was only 300 meter from our hotel, so we walked over there. The train went 11.11. It was scheduled to be in Basel at 14.26. There we had to pass the border to Switzerland and take a train at 15.01. It arrived in Bern at 15.46. We had planned all the train trips with the aid of the internet pages of DB Bahn that has train schedules all over Europe. Everything was correct.



Switzerland in Europe



Flag



Coat of arms

Switzerland consists of 26 federal states called cantons. Bern is the seat for the federal government, called *Bundesstadt*, and is then the capital of the country. Switzerland is one of the richest countries in the world.

The name Switzerland originates from the canton of *Schwyz* and it was little by little used for the whole federation.

Switzerland's modern history started in 1291, but it had lived people in the area for many thousand years.

In 1291 the three rural communes Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden went together against the Habsburg rule. These three signed a treaty, which among others guaranteed free trade and a defense alliance.

The country has long traditions as a multi ethnic community. Switzerland consists of various ethnic and linguistic groups, mainly German, French and Italian speaking, but there is also a fourth official national language called Romansh.



Map



Flag



Coat of Arms



[Bern](#) is the capital in Switzerland. It is the fourth biggest city after Zürich, Genève and Basel.

Bern lies at the river [Aare](#). Bern's old town lies on a peninsula with water on three edges. From the old town the city now has expanded in all direction in an area of a twelve kilometer radius.

After the first settlements the city was in 1191 conquered by the duke Berthold V of Zähringen. According to legend he called the city Bern, because he should have caught a bear at this place. It is more likely that Berthold named the city in honor of the legendary hero Dietrich von Bern, who he admired.

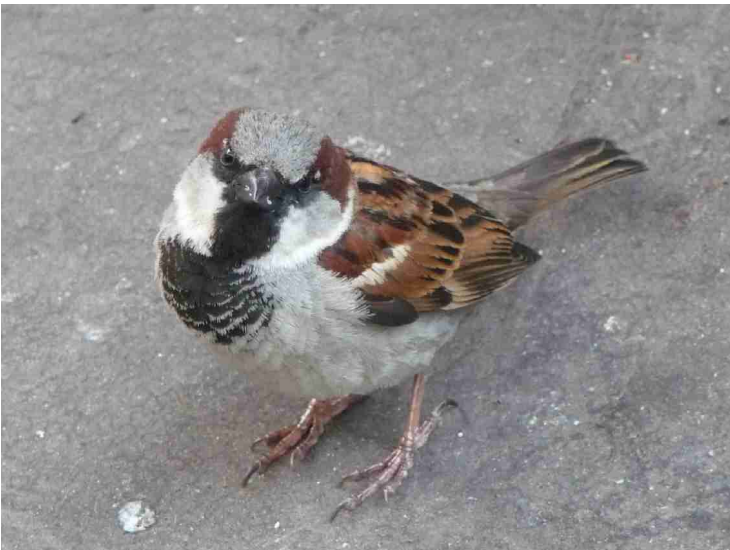
When we arrived at the hotel, called [Hotel National Bern](#), we were hungry, so we walked straight to a restaurant that was recommended by the receptionist at the hotel.



When we came to the restaurant this table was occupied.



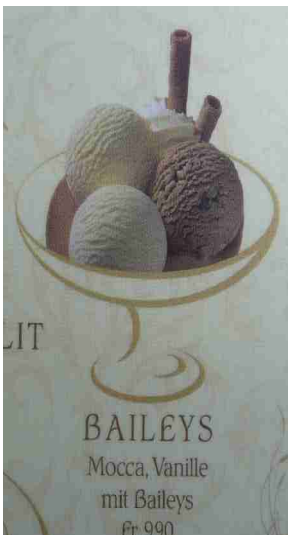
We got another table. We didn't sit there for very long, because it started to rain a little. We therefore moved in under the roof. We ordered lamb filet. It was very expensive and very good.



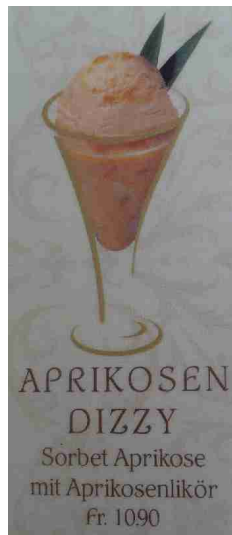
In many cities in Europe there is a lot of pigeons. Here it was the sparrows that dominated.



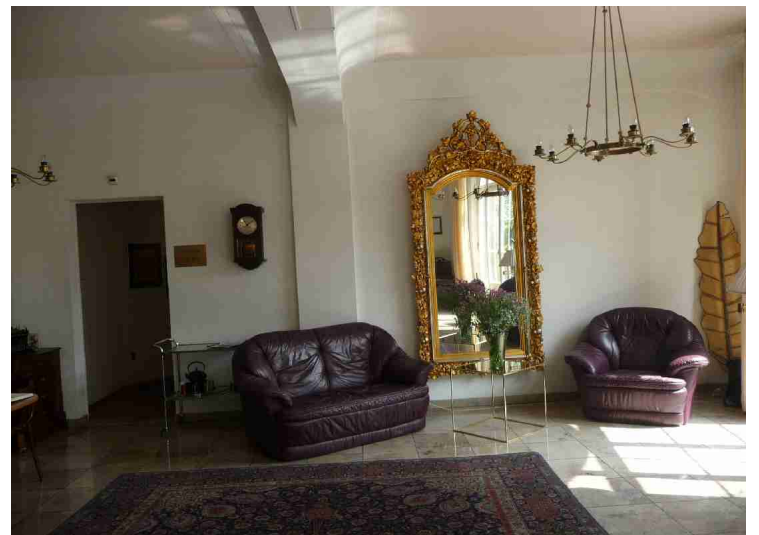
Here they are sitting at the edge of a flowerpot, begging for food.



Later we had desert. Anne Berit had this ice cream.

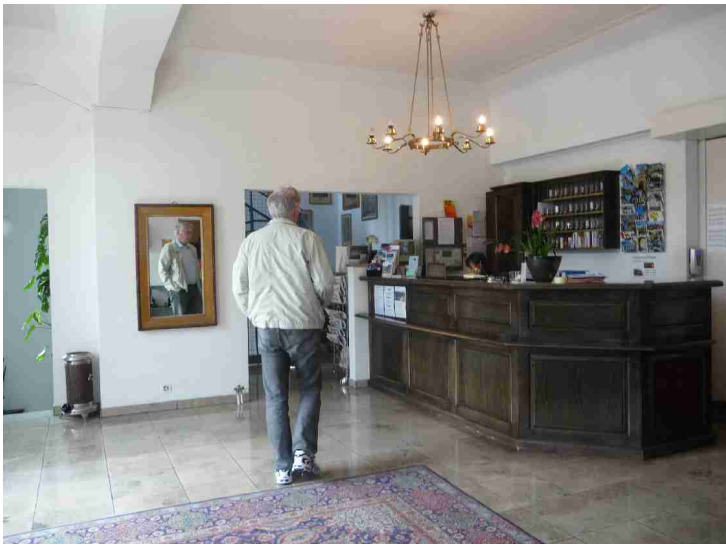


Kjell had this sorbet.



This is the reception at the hotel.





In Switzerland they have contacts with 3 pins. We borrowed an adapter in the reception such that we were able to use the PC and the hair drier.



The next day we went for a long sightseeing round. This is a small park not far from the hotel.



There is quite steep from the river Aare and up to the plateau, where the old town is situated. Those who doesn't want to walk can take this railway, which is 105 m long. It is named Marzili and was opened in 1885.



Just beyond the railway we can look up to the parliament building.



A statue in a park down by the river.



Paintwork going on. The whole motive is painted on a wall. Original.





There is quite lush here along the river.



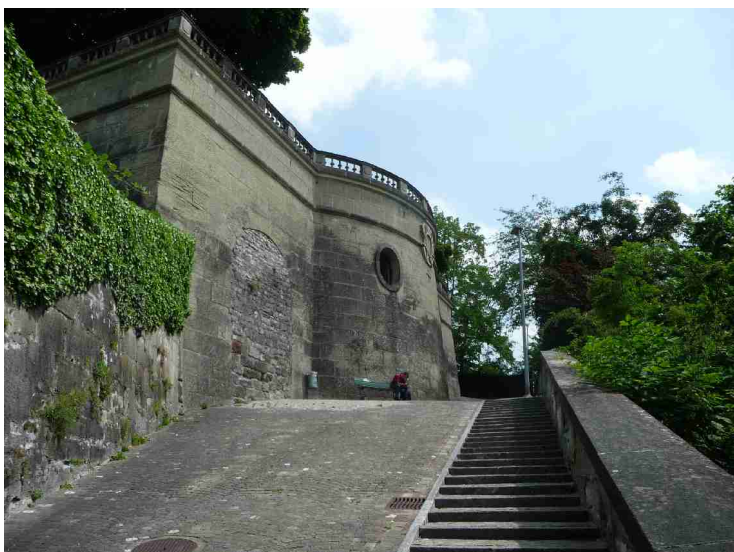
Aare runs quite calmly here, because it is dammed at bit further down.



We can see the dam on the far side.



Flowers in the windows. They look as they are prisoned.



This is a steep road up from the river to the old town.  
There are steps too in the steepest part.



There were a lot of such flowering bushes.





Almost up. We just have to pass through this opening in the wall.



This is the house and atelier to a painter from Bern. His name was [Friedrich Eduard Traffelet](#) (1897–1954). He was mostly known as military painter.



Time for a bear at a restaurant in Junkerngasse.



Here we are walking on [Nydeggbücke](#), looking down on Aare and [Untertorbrücke](#).





Still on the same bridge.



On the other side of the bridge we can see bears that are kept captive in the bear pit called [Bärengaben](#). This has been a tradition for many hundred years since .



A «sign» outside the entrance.





When we are standing on the bridge, we can look down on the area where the bears are.



A tricycle.



A statue in the main street in the old town.



The Town Hall, which was built in 1406 - 1416.



A catholic church adjacent to the town hall.



A statue across the street from the town hall.





The statue is situated at a small square.



The theater.



At the end of the Kornhausbrücke we found this little horseman statue with a bear on each corner.



The bears.



At the entrance to the old town is this steeple tower from the Middle Ages. It has movable figures.



Here we are walking to the other side of the tower.





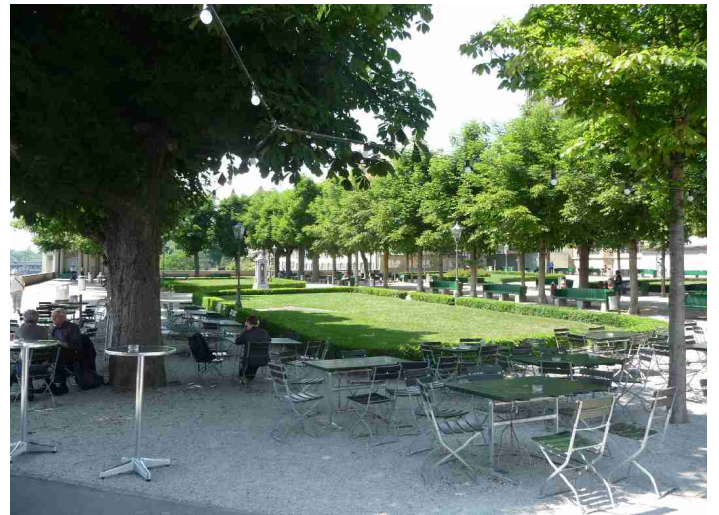
On the other side.



The moving figures can be seen down to the right.



The casino.



This is the plateau adjacent to the cathedral. There is a nice little park here.

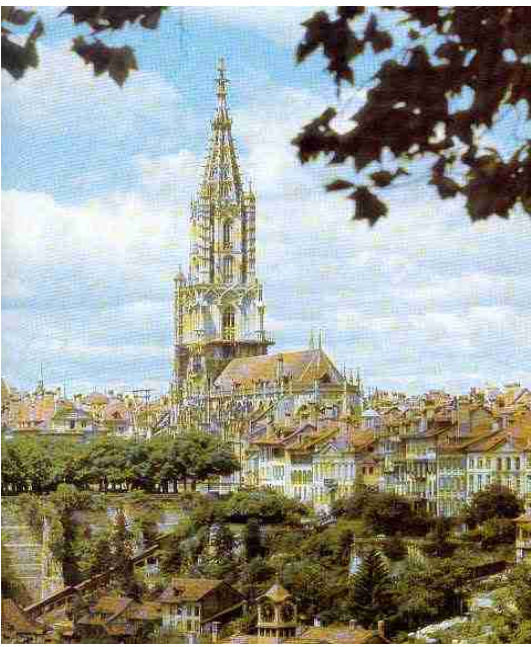


When looking over the edge, we can see down to the valley where Aare is flowing.



Buildings far on the other side.

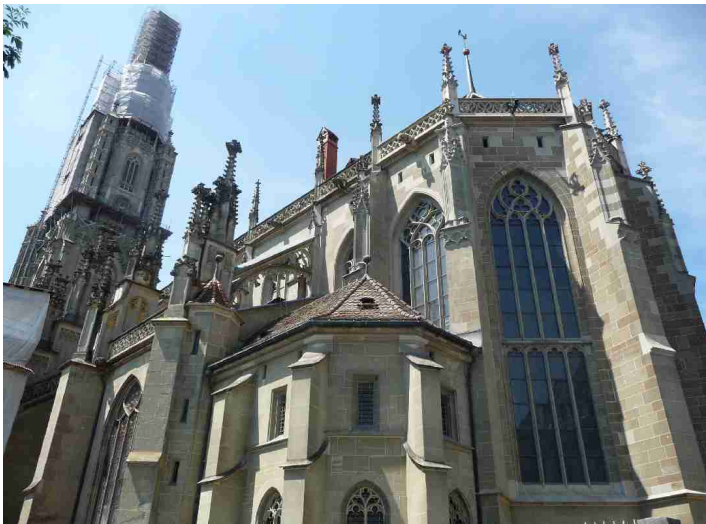




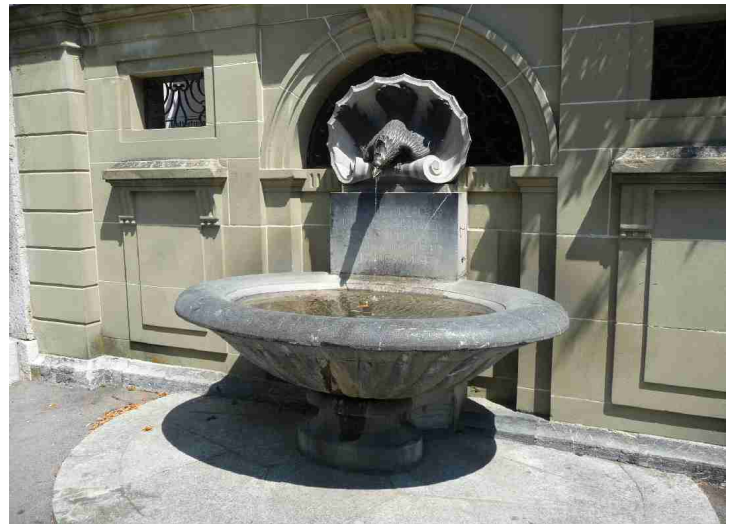
The [cathedral](#) was covered with scaffolding and tarpaulin when we were there, so we have found a picture on Internet. The church was commenced in 1421, but the steeple was not finish until 1893. It is the highest cathedral I Switzerland.



The main entrance.



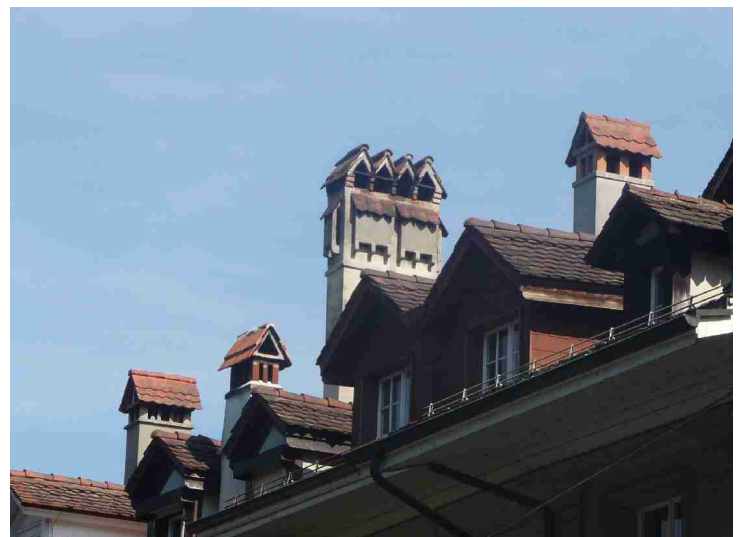
A glimpse of the cathedral where it is not much covered.



A kind of fountain.



We had dinner here the day we arrived. It was quite expensive, so we wanted to find another place to have lunch.



Not common ventilation chimneys.





We found an OK place in the old town.



Good food. Lamb with creamed potatoes.



The restaurant where we had lunch.



After lunch we walked on. Here we are crossing Aare on a footbridge. There was a sign that it was forbidden to jog on the bridge, but during our crossing there was at least two people who were jogging across the bridge at full speed.



Aare seen from the footbridge. When we were there there was a guy who jumped into the river and swam to the shore. There were powerful currents, so he was taken quite a bit downstream.



The botanical garden was said to be nice, but we thought it looked like a large tangled mess. We took only a picture of this pond.





The pond again.



Back in the center. It is now so late that there are long shadows.



The locals are playing the game mill.



The parliament, which we saw from below when we started walking this day.



The UPU-monument from 2009. UPU stands for Union Postale Universelle. UPU was established in Bern in Switzerland in 1874 to develop the postal services between the nations of the world.



The back of a chair in the dining room at the hotel. We guess that it is here referred to the cantons Bern, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, that established the federation in 1323





This is the dining room at the hotel.



The hotel seen from the outside.



The next day the trip was scheduled to continue from Bern to Vaduz. This is [the railway station](#) in Bern.

It was finished renovated in 2003.

There is also a large shopping center below the ground in connection to the station. The opening time for the shops is quite late and they are also open in the weekends.