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Local Information

WTI Summer Academy

Academy Organisers

World Trade Institute
Hallerstrasse 6
Bern, Switzerland

Tel: +41 31 631 3457
Fax: +41 31 631 3630
Web: <http://www.wti.org/>
Email: summer@wti.org

Arriving in Bern

Basel, Geneva, and Zurich Airports to Bern Central Railway Station: Take the intercity train from the airport at Basel (90 minutes), Geneva (110 minutes) or Zurich (75 minutes). Information on train timetables can be found at <http://www.sbb.ch/>. From Bern airport there is a shuttle bus to the central railway station.

Taxi: Taxis are available at Bern airport and at the Bahnhof (central railway station).

Car: Please note that there are no parking lots available at the WTI.



Directions to the World Trade Institute

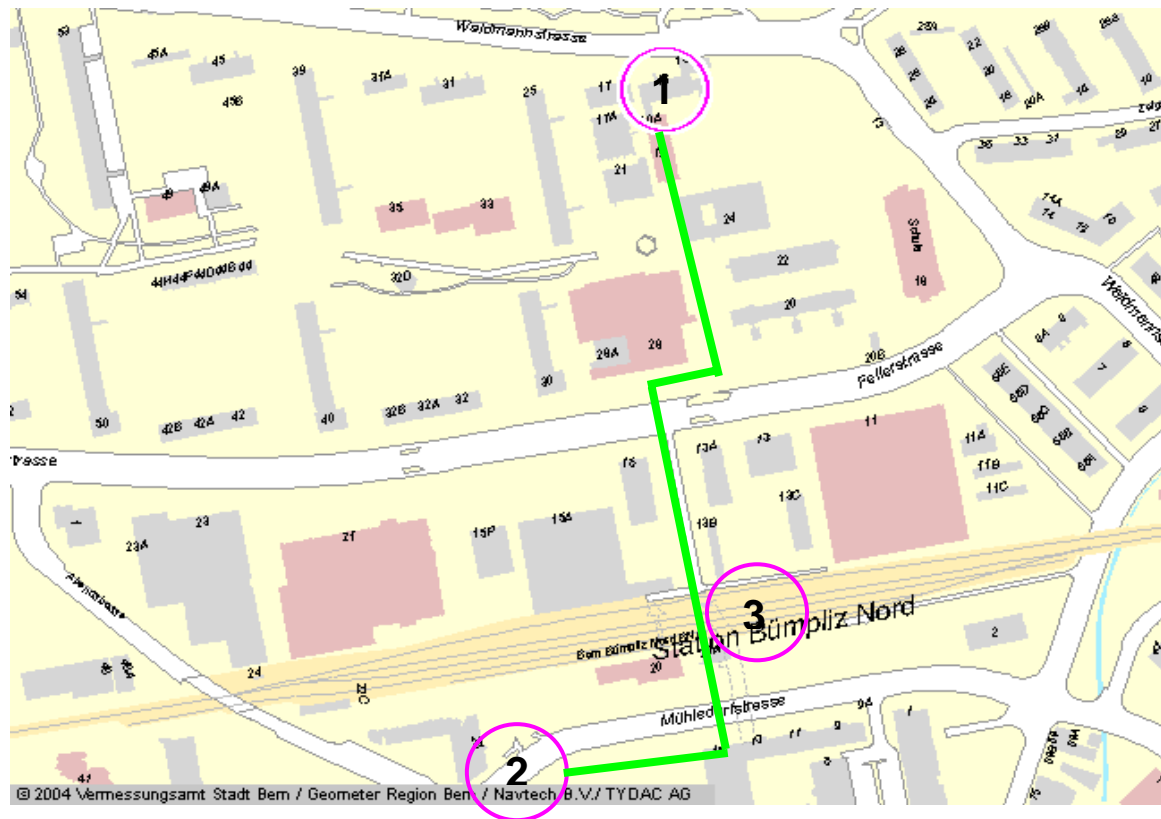


- 1 **World Trade Institute**
- 2 **Bahnhof** (central railway station)

Walking: Get off the train at Bern central railway station (Bahnhof). Once you are on the platform, do not walk down into the station itself but instead take the stairs or escalator up at the western end of the platform. This brings you to location 2 on the map above. Follow the road as shown by the arrow - you should find yourself walking gradually uphill on Schanzenstrasse/Länggassstrasse. Turn right at 'Hallerstrasse' and you will find the WTI on the left (1).

Venue of classes: All classes will be held at the WTI (1).

Directions to the Students' Residences





(1) Indicates the location of the **Tscharnergut** residence (Waldmannstrasse 15). Take the Number 14 Bus (direction Brünnen Bahnhof). The bus stop is located on the square opposite the central railway station, in front of the UBS bank. The bus stops right in front of the student residence at the bus stop **Blumenfeld**. Alternatively, take the S5, S51, or S52 train from the central railway station in Bern in the direction of Bern Brünnen or Neuchâtel. The stop to get off is marked as **Bümpliz Nord (3)** on the platform signs. Follow the green line on the map above to get to the residence on foot.



(2) Indicates the location of the **Felligut** residence (Mühledorfstrasse 28) which is near the train station **Bümpliz Nord**. Take the S5, S51, or S52 train from Bern in the direction of Bern Brünnen or Neuchâtel and disembark at **Bümpliz Nord (3)**.

The Summer Academy Team



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Restaurants

Restaurants in Switzerland can be rather expensive. However, near the University there are a number of places where you can buy an inexpensive meal. One option is to continue your walk up Länggasse, the main road that leads from the railway station to the WTI. On each side of the road you will find small Italian, Turkish, Indian or Thai restaurants with seating or take-away possibilities. Another option is to walk into the central railway station of Bern. There you can find fast-food restaurants such as McDonalds, inexpensive Italian or Chinese takeaways as well as a number of sandwich bars and a supermarket. A vegetarian restaurant called Tibits is located next to the main entrance of the central railway station.

Shopping

Opening Hours: Department stores are open Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 18:30, and on Saturday from 09:00 to 17:00. Late night shopping is available on Thursday night when most stores remain open until 21:00. Some small shops and bank branches may close during lunchtime (the period between 12:00 – 14:00). As 1st August is a holiday, shops will be closed on that day, except for the Migros at the train station.

Pharmacies: There is a pharmacy in the central railway station which is open from 06:30 until 22:00, 7 days a week.

Food Shopping: You will find that shopping in Switzerland can be rather expensive. Switzerland has three major grocery chains: Migros, Coop and Denner. Migros and Coop are virtually identical. They operate large supermarkets which stock all the usual products you would expect; Migros however does not sell alcoholic beverages. There are Coop and Migros supermarkets in the central railway station. Coop runs a small store there; Migros has a larger supermarket. Both of these branches are open 7 days a week from 8:00 to 21:00. Denner is the cut-price grocery shopping store. Denner rarely stocks perishable items but is far cheaper for non-perishable goods such as canned food, pasta, cheese, wine, juice and even laundry powder and toiletries.

Alternative Cuisine: There is an Indian grocery in Schwanengasse, next door to the Rex cinema, and another in Schützenstrasse. A general Asian grocery is located in the passage beside the Gotthard cinema, between Christoffelgasse and Schwanengasse.

English Bookstore: The bookstore with the broadest range of English books is called Stauffacher and is located in Neuengasse close to the central railway station.

Bank and Currency Conversion

There is a UBS bank on the plaza opposite the central railway station, which accepts all major credit cards. There is a currency exchange service within the central railway station itself, which is open between 07:00 - 20:00 from Monday to Friday, and from 09:00 to 19:00 on the weekend. The

following website is very convenient for information about exchange rates:

<http://finance.yahoo.com/currency?u>.

Weather

During July and August, the temperature in Bern can vary between 20 and 30 degrees centigrade during the day and is perhaps a bit cooler at night. Please expect at least a few days of rain during your stay and come to Bern equipped with an umbrella, a sweater/sweatshirt and a waterproof jacket.

Transportation

Public Transport: On average public transport in Switzerland can be expensive but safe and efficient. Trains, trams, buses, etc. are clean and inviting. For individual trips it is easiest to buy a round-trip ticket (not available for buses and trams) or day pass at the nearest train station or ticket vending machine.

If you stay for 4 weeks and plan to travel around Bern using public transport it is recommended that you purchase a **Libero** travel pass from BERNMOBIL at the Libero-Shop (<http://www.bernmobil.ch/english/index.php>), which is located opposite the central railway station next to the UBS. Note that you will need a passport-sized photo of yourself. A **Libero** pass costs you SFr 70 for 4 weeks and SFr 35 for one week. It entitles you to unlimited transport within the city limits of Bern on trains, buses, trams and some ancillary means of transport such as funiculars.

Bikes: Bikes are available for the duration of your stay from your Studentenlogierhaus provided that you leave a deposit of SFr 50 at the Front Desk. Daily bicycle hire is available throughout the City of Bern during summer months. The bikes are free with a deposit SFr 20 and an identity card or passport. They may be rented from a number of booths situated around the city: At Casinoplatz between the Culture Hall and the Schweizerhof Hotel, on the Bahnhofplatz, and beside the stairs leading up from the train platforms on Schanzenstrasse, just around the corner from the WTI. Be warned that bike theft is a concern.

Taxis: There are several companies. The main companies are:

Bären Taxi: 031 371 11 11

Nova Taxi: 0 313 313 313

Power Adaptors

Power adaptors which allow you to use electronic devices from abroad are available at department stores such as Loeb right opposite the central railway station but also in small hardware shops. One is located in a passageway running off Marktgasse beside the Coop City store. Be prepared to pay SFr 8 – 12 per adaptor.

Libraries

The Library at the WTI is closed on weekends, as well as in the evenings. Alternatives are the law faculty's library (situated on Hochschulstrasse 4 and open from 8:00 – 19:00 from Monday to Thursday and 8:00 – 18:00 on Fridays), or the StUB library (situated on Münsterergasse 61 and open from 8:00 – 21:00 on weekdays, and 8:00 – 12:00 on Saturdays).

Telephone

All phone numbers in Bern begin with 031. For international calls, dial 00, then the country code. You can buy phone cards from newsstands and use them from a phone booth. At present, there are three providers, besides Migros and Coop, selling prepaid cards for mobile phones in Switzerland: Sunrise, Swisscom and Orange. The prepaid SIM-cards are called "Swisscom NATEL easy", "Sunrise go" or "Orange PrePay". In Waaghaus-Passage 8, close to the "Käfigturm", there is a shop called Mobilezone which sells these SIM-cards. You will be required to bring along a passport when purchasing a SIM-card.

The national dialling code for Switzerland is +41. The following 0 is omitted. International dialling codes from Switzerland are as follows:

Germany:	0049
France:	0033
Italy:	00390
Japan:	0081
Netherlands:	0031
Austria:	0043
USA:	001
UK:	0044

Medical Emergencies

In case of a medical emergency, dial the police emergency number 117 or ambulance 144. A doctor is available at **City Notfall**, a medical practice, where no appointment is necessary (open daily from 7:00 – 22:00). It is situated on Bubenbergplatz 10, close to the central railway station.

Useful Websites

The most useful general information about Bern, including everything from cinema listings to radio stations can be found at the following website: <http://www.berninfo.com> (English).

For everything concerning the expatriate in Switzerland, please visit: <http://www.xpatxchange.ch/> (English).

The following website is very convenient for translating German text to English or to another language: <http://dictionary.reference.com/translate/text.html> (English).

You can find information about the location of your embassy on the following website: <http://www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/Switzerland.cfm>

You can find general information about Switzerland concerning accommodation, sightseeing etc. on the following website: <http://www.myswitzerland.com/en.cfm/home>

If you need to book a flight ticket, check the following website: <http://www.statravel.ch>, there is also a STA travel agency close to the WTI on Falkenplatz 9.

For train connections and schedules, check the website of the Swiss Federal Railways at: <http://www.sbb.ch>

These two websites offer searchable phone directories: <http://www.directories.ch> or <http://www.telsearch.ch>

The following website lists the playing times for all cinemas in Switzerland: <http://www.cineman.ch/en>

Information on Swiss museums is available at: <http://www.museums.ch> Unfortunately the website is only available in French, Italian and German.

Anyone interested in concerts and nightlife should visit: www.bewegungsmelder.ch (be aware, however, that many clubs are closed for the summer).

Online maps of Switzerland may be found at: <http://map.search.ch>

The easiest and cheapest places to stay if you travel around Switzerland are youth hostels. Locations and details in regard to booking rooms can be found at: <http://www.youthhostel.ch/>

Internet access

You will have internet access at the WTI. However, if you need to have internet access when the WTI is closed you can visit the following places.

Internet services / Internet cafés

BEKB Meeting Centre
Bundesplatz 8
3011 Bern
Tel. 41 (0)31 666 60 03
www.bekb.ch

Internet Thalia Bücher (Loeb)
Spitalgasse 47 -51
3011 Bern
Tel. +41 (0)31 320 20 20
www.thalia.ch

Weblane
Internetcafé Bern
Gerechtigkeitsgasse 58
www.weblane.ch

History of Bern

Bern was founded in 1191 by Duke Berchtold V of Zähringen as the western bulwark of his territory, and extended in several stages. In 1353, Bern became the eighth member of the Confederation. After the fire of 1405, the city was rebuilt in sandstone. The medieval architecture, which was constructed at that time, is still largely intact. Bern reached the zenith of its power in the 14th to 16th centuries and was the most powerful city-state north of the Alps. In 1528, the Reformation took place and in 1798 Napoleonic troops invaded Bern, which resulted in the downfall of Old Bern. In 1834, Bern acquired a university charter. It became the Swiss federal capital in 1848. The city is also the capital of the Canton of Bern.

A Quick Look at Bern

Population: Approx. 127,000

Language: German

Religion: Roman Catholic 42%, Protestant 35%, others 23%

With its time-honoured sandstone buildings, historic towers and unique fountains, Bern is one of the finest examples of medieval civic architecture in Europe. The city's appearance has remained virtually unchanged for centuries, earning Bern a place on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. Bern is also the seat of the Swiss Government.



Thanks to 6 kilometres of arcades, Bern boasts one of the longest covered shopping promenades in Europe. Under the arcades and on squares and side streets are dozens of restaurants and cafés. And on Tuesday and Saturday mornings this is where you'll find colourful markets for fresh vegetables, flowers, and meat.



The river Aare is Bern's green artery: ideal for a quick swim in summertime or for lounging along its shores in the sun. The river snakes round the Old Town and offers plenty of room for recreation. Just a few minutes' walk from the railway station you can stroll along the riverbank under leafy trees, surrounded by nature.



Bern is not only a Cultural World Heritage Site but also embraces modern movements of architecture and design. The Paul Klee Museum houses the world's largest collection of Paul Klee's works. Einstein developed his theory of relativity here in Bern and Tobler created his world-famous Toblerone chocolate. The concert hall and municipal theatre are only a few steps away from the city centre.

