

A DAY TRIP TO BERN

By Melissa Duffy - Visited: 6 February, 2019



Today, was Excursion day and our group had the opportunity to plan and create our own itineraries. We were keen to see and do as much as we could knowing that our interrail passes would get us between cities and regions quite easily. The difficult part was deciding where to go with so many great destinations to choose from. After much thought and consideration, we decided on Switzerland's capital city, Bern. (69)



With the train network around Switzerland being so efficient, it is easy to understand why it has become a niche market for visitors to the area. The train journey itself was fun, adventurous and awe-inspiring and integral to the whole travel experience. By taking the scenic train route we were able to appreciate the beauty that surrounded us. Even though the rain had set in for the day, we were not disappointed with the views. We could only imagine its beauty on a sunny day!! (85)



Our journey started at Lauterbrunnen Station with just one “easy” change at Interlaken.



For part of the journey, our train skirted the water's edge of the beautiful Lake Thun. Even though the rain had well and truly settled in by this time, it was still a beautiful sight and it was easy to imagine how beautiful it must be on a nice sunny day.



In just a little over an hour, we arrived in the Swiss capital, ready and keen to see what this small vintage city had to offer.

Once we found our bearings and made our way out of the train station, we were soon greeted with Medieval styled buildings and cobbled stoned streets. My first observation was how quiet it was for a capital city. Although there was a tram running through the town centre and a few cars in the street, most people walked. (As our day progressed, it was evident that most things were within easy walking distance).



Zytglogge Clock



Statue



Kindlifresser Statue



Einstein's House

The first monument we came across in our travels, was the impressive 13th century Zytglogge clock which is testament to the Swiss' obsession with time. There were several other statues along the way that caught our attention. For example, the Child Eater, known as the Kindlifresser, depicts a man eating a baby with five others in a sack. There are various stories as to its meaning but nothing substantial.





We had originally planned to visit the Bear Park. But hadn't considered they were in hibernation. However, the parks website did not indicate this. As we had just visited Einsteins house, we decided to head for the Einstein/Bern museum instead. As students, we were given a discount. The Museum was well laid out, informative and interesting. We felt it was money well spent and we were there for about 1.5hours.



After coming out of the museum, we were ready for lunch and decided to head back towards the main square near the train station for food. There were several eateries offering a variety of different dishes. However, we all opted for Italian. My dish was the Spaghetti Carbonara washed down with a white sauvignon blanc. My dish tasted as good as it looked.



By the time we had finished our food, it was nearly time to meet back with the rest of the group. In a way, we couldn't believe how quickly our time went. On reflection, we were a little disappointed that some of our planned activities for the day were not operating. But we were pleased with what we did. We all wanted to do something relaxing and felt Bern provided just that.

Our visit gave us a snapshot of what Bern had to offer and was enough to entice me to want to return in the future. Even though the weather was against us at times, it was easy to adjust our itinerary as we went along and find an alternative attraction to visit without too much hassle as everything was within walking distance.

All in all, I would not hesitate to visit this beautiful little city again; especially in the spring/summer months. I have seen pictures of what it looks like during this time and look forward to returning in the future.