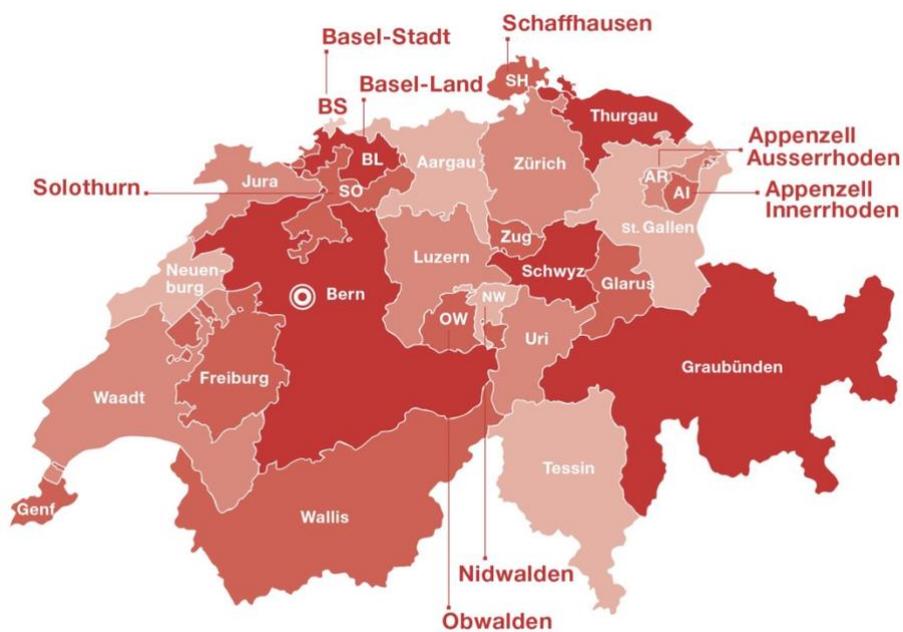


ENLIGHT

Practical information – traveling in **Switzerland**

22.10.2026 – 24.10.2026



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TRANSPORT TO AND AROUND BERN

1. Travelling to Bern

Being centrally located in Europe, Switzerland can easily be reached by train from many ENLIGHT universities.

Switzerland has three relatively large airports: Geneva, Zurich and Basel. It does not really matter from which airport you land/depart since all three are conveniently connected to the train stations:

- Zurich: The journey from Zurich Airport to Bern takes around 1h20. Trains run directly from the airport to Bern every half hour.
- Basel: The full journey from Basel airport to Bern takes around 1h30. Take bus no. 50 to the train station in Basel (Basel SBB). From there, connections directly to Bern run every half hour.
- Geneva: The journey from Geneva Airport to Bern takes around 2hrs. Trains run directly from the airport to Bern every half hour.

The national railway of Switzerland is famous for its punctuality and density. We recommend taking the train from your respective airport since taxis will be very expensive for long distances. Public transport tickets can be bought at the airport, online (<https://www.sbb.ch/en>) or in the SBB app (Apple / Android). If bought online or in the app in advance you can benefit from the super saver tickets. However, super saver tickets are only valid for the exact time for which you book.

2. Getting around in Bern

We recommend downloading the “Bern Welcome” application (Apple / Android). After checking in at your hotel, you will receive your “Bern Ticket”, which allows you to use public transportation for free in the City of Bern (zones 100/101 + Gurtenbahn). The Gurtenbahn we will use for our conference dinner on Friday.

- [Bern Ticket Instructions](#)
- [Bern Ticket Informations](#)

BERN 

In general, Bern is an extremely walkable city, with most locations and attractions being within walking distance from the train station, university, and your hotel.

- [City Maps & brochures](#)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. Drinkable tap water

Tap water in Bern is of excellent quality and drinkable. The water is clean, fresh, and safe to drink straight from the tap. All the public fountains throughout the city provide free, drinkable water. Visitors and locals are encouraged **to bring their own bottles** and refill them, making bottled water unnecessary. Bern's drinking water is not only healthy but also environmentally friendly, as it is delivered sustainably and locally.

- [Bern – City of fountains](#)
- Be sustainable – bring your own bottle!



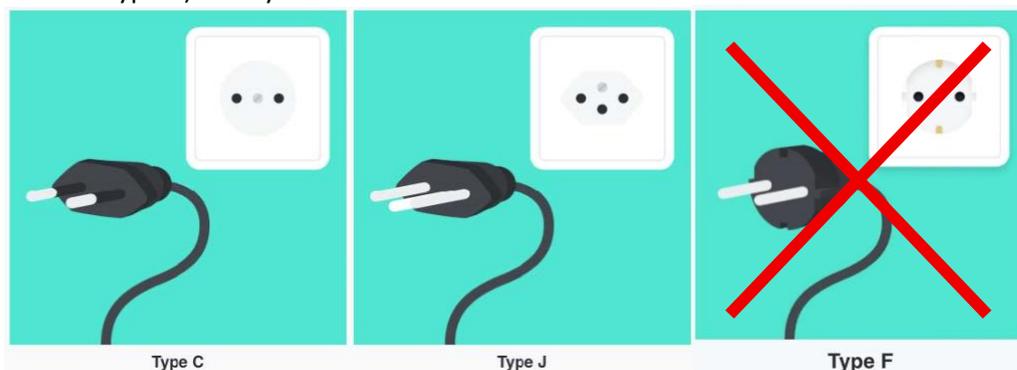
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2. Roaming in Switzerland (internet access)

As Switzerland is not in the EU, roaming fees will likely apply. Using your mobile phone to make or receive calls, to send or receive text (SMS) or media (MMS) messages, or to access the internet could cost you dearly. On campus, you will be able to connect through Eduroam. We strongly recommend checking with your provider whether Switzerland is included in your roaming plan or to buy a data package. Come prepared: you can download the relevant maps on Google maps in advance for offline use and make sure you have all your tickets and hotel confirmation either printed out or downloaded on your device before travelling. You may also want to consider eSIM options if your phone supports this.

3. Electricity

For Switzerland there are two associated plug types, types C and J. Be aware that plug type F (slightly thicker than type C) widely used in the EU does not work in Switzerland!



4. Currency

Switzerland uses Swiss francs, usually indicated as CHF. Shops may accept euros but are not obliged to do so. Change will most likely be given in Swiss francs.

- [Currency Converter](#)

5. Payment options

The most commonly accepted payment options are cash, credit cards and debit cards.

Credit cards and debit cards are accepted almost everywhere. The most common are Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Maestro. It is advisable to check in advance what fees apply to transactions abroad.

6. Opening hours

In general, most stores in Bern are open Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grocery shops usually open earlier. Most stores are closed on Sundays (except for stores at train stations).

7. Time zone

The time in Bern is Central European Time (CET).