

Our European Adventure Part 3 - Switzerland

24 – 26 August 2018

Friday 24 August 2018

Today we started our adventure to Switzerland. We started out from our accommodation in Rome at 06:00 to get our train at 07:20. The train was a direct service to Milan where we arrived at 10:40. At Milan we transferred to our train to Bern departing at 11:20. The journey from Rome to Milan was 3:30 hours and from Milan to Bern was just on 3:00 hours. We arrived in Bern at 14:20.

The scenery was very nice travelling from Milan up through the Swiss Alps. Unfortunately, we couldn't take decent pictures through the windows on this journey. So, the only pictures are of our suite in the hotel, upgraded by the hotel, and the magnificent view of the river from the suite.

Tomorrow we will walk around the city of Bern.



View of the River Aare from our suite balcony and through our windows



The view we see from inside the suite from both main room and bedroom.



Our suite – Main bedroom with the view of the river Aare reflected in the mirror with Maree



Our suite – Main entrance and sitting area.

Saturday 25 August 2018

Today we took a slow walk around Bern. As well as the images here is some background about this lovely city.

Bern or Berne is the de facto capital of Switzerland, referred to by the Swiss as their federal city. The Swiss constitution does not mention a Swiss capital and therefore it is called the federal city (in German: Bundesstadt), not the German equivalent for capital: Hauptstadt. With a population of 142,656 (March 2018), Bern is the fourth-most populous city in Switzerland. Bern includes 36 municipalities and is also the capital of the canton of Bern, the second-most populous of Switzerland's cantons. The official language in Bern is the Swiss variety of Standard German, but the most-spoken language is an Alemannic Swiss German dialect, Bernese German. In 1983, the historic old Altstadt in the centre of Bern became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The etymology of the name "Bern" is uncertain. According to the local legend, based on folk etymology, Berchtold V, Duke of Zähringen, the founder of the city of Bern, vowed to name the city after the first animal he met on the hunt, and this turned out to be a bear. Hence there being a Bärengraben (Bear Pit) in the middle of Bern. It has long been considered likely that the city was named after the Italian city of Verona, which at the time was known as Bern in Middle High

German. As a result of the finding of the Bern zinc tablet in the 1980s, it is now more common to assume that the city was named after a pre-existing city of Celtic origin. The bear was the heraldic animal of the seal and coat of arms of Bern from at least the 1220s. The earliest reference to the keeping of live bears in the Bärengraben dates to the 1440s.



The bear pit where there are three bears in captivity but with a large area to roam



The bear pit where there are three bears in captivity but with a large area to roam



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View of the forests in Bern



View of Bern



View of the forests in Bern



View of Bern



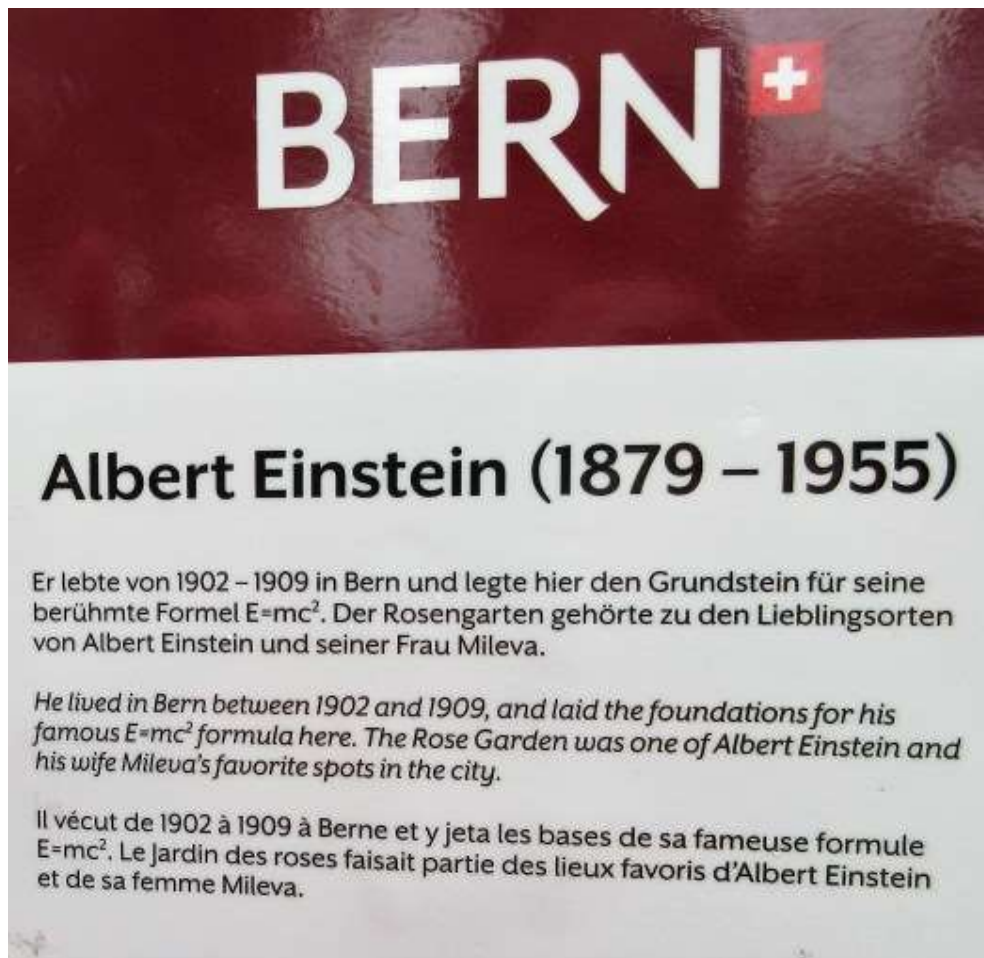
View of Bern housing and the river Aare



View of Bern



Albert Einstein statue in the Rose Garden where he and his wife liked to spend time.



Plaque next to the Albert Einstein statue



Finally, the image of Maree at dinner at our local restaurant around the corner from our hotel.

Sunday 26 August 2018

Today we took the train down to Interlaken. From here we travelled into the Jungfrau region where we were able to see the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains.

The Jungfrau at 4,158 metres (13,642 ft) is one of the main summits of the Bernese Alps, located between the northern canton of Bern and the southern canton of Valais, halfway between Interlaken and Fiesch. Together with the Eiger and Mönch, the Jungfrau forms a massive wall overlooking the Bernese Oberland and the Swiss Plateau, one of the most distinctive sights of the Swiss Alps. The summit was first reached on August 3, 1811, by the Meyer brothers of Aarau and two chamois hunters from Valais. The ascent followed a long expedition over the glaciers and high passes of the Bernese Alps. It was not until 1865 that a more direct route on the northern side was opened.

The construction of the Jungfrau railway in the early 20th century, which connects Kleine Scheidegg to the Jungfraujoch, the saddle between the Mönch and the Jungfrau, made the area one of the most-visited places in the Alps. Along with the Aletsch Glacier to the south, the Jungfrau is part of the Jungfrau-Aletsch area, which was declared a World Heritage Site in 2001.

It was a perfect day to travel through this region of Switzerland. We took another train to Lauterbrunnen where we spent most of the day. We had a leisurely walk around the area and had some lunch before walking some of the tracks and heading back to the railway station. From here we caught the train back to Interlaken and then a connection back to Bern. We hope you enjoy the images we took during the day. Tomorrow, we head off to London via Paris by train.



The mountains of Eiger, Monch and Jungfraujoch



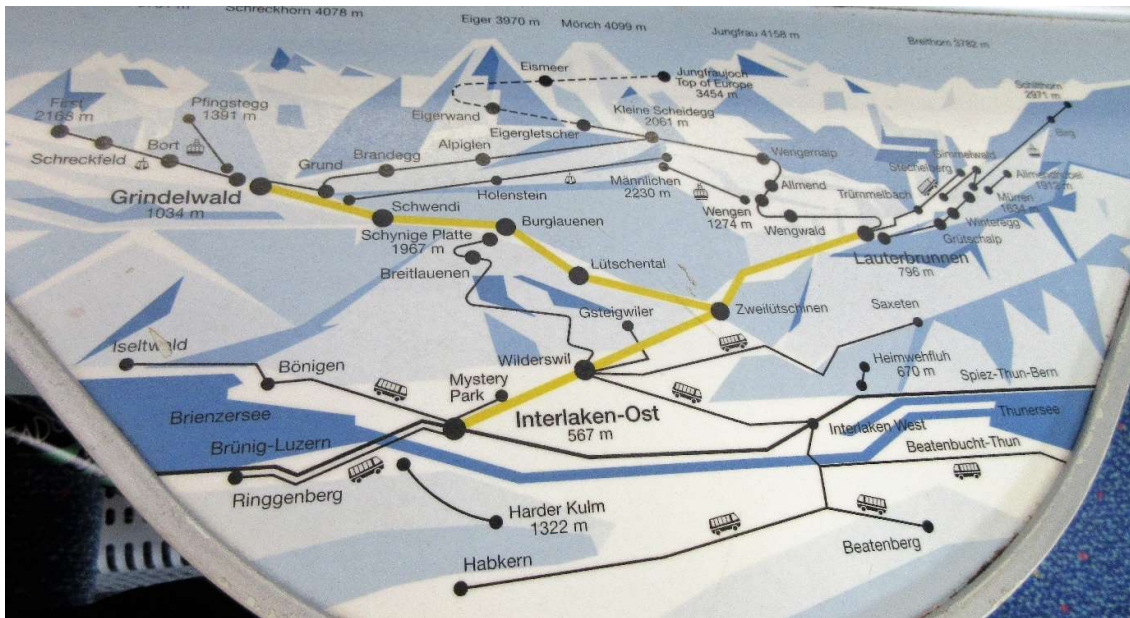
The mountain Jungfrauoch



The mountains of Eiger, Monch and Jungfrauoch



The mountains of Eiger, Monch and Jungfrauoch



Map of the railway network to the Jungfrau region.



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Time to stop for lunch in Lauterbrunnen.



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Views from Lauterbrunnen



Views from Lauterbrunnen



View of the Alps through the mountains in Lauterbrunnen.



Lauterbrunnen waterfall