How to get to Bern (Switzerland)

Air Travel

Bern has a small airport just outside the city, called "Bern-Belp." The airport is mainly operated by the airline Skywork that serves several destinations in Europe (including London (City Airport), Vienna, Budapest, Zagreb, Amsterdam, and Rome). The flight rate might be more expensive than those of larger airlines (e.g. Swiss, Easyjet), yet the proximity to Bern might compensate the train expenses. Flights can be directly booked on http://www.flyskywork.com. If you fly into Bern-Belp you can travel to the city by taxi (20 min, approx. CHF. 80.00), and by bus and train (appr. 30 mins.). Buses to the train station Belp run appr. every 20 to 30 mins. (single ticket Airport-Bern Central Station: CHF 6.70).

Most international flights run through Zürich airport, Basel airport or Geneva airport. Especially Zürich is operated by many international (and low budget) airlines, including Easyjet, Swiss (which has a number of cheap city connections in Europe), yet also other central airlines. Most of the tickets can be bought cheaply via the airline’s websites.

Each airport is conveniently connected by a train service (the train stations with direct connections to Bern are just below the airports Zürich and Geneva, while the airport Basel-Muelhausen (take the exit to Switzerland – not to France or Germany!) is connected by a bus shuttle that operates every 10 to 15 mins. (15 to 20 mins. travel time). Travel time to Bern: 1 hr. 20 mins. from Zürich airport, 1 hr. 30 mins. from Basel, 2hrs. from Geneva). Trains to Bern operate every 30 mins. from each station until night time. For the train schedule, see:

www.sbb.ch

Train tickets to Bern cost CHF 55.00 (from Zürich Airport and from Geneva Airport; one-way), CHF 44.40 (from Basel Airport, one-way).
Rail Travel

The main railway station is situated in the center of Bern, 7 to 10 minutes walking distance from the conference venue. Use the following link to the Swiss railway system to plan your schedule:

www.sbb.ch

Tip: Trains within Switzerland are expensive. If you plan to make more trips by train than just one return trip to Bern, you may consider buying a "half-fare card", which allows you to pay only 50% for all train tickets within Switzerland. You can purchase the half-fare card at any large railway station (you will need to provide a small passport photograph).

For details see: Halbtax

Check also the SBB website for discount train fares (that require online pre-booked reservations)!

Visa Information

Member-countries of the EU do not require an entry visa for stays of up to 90 days in Switzerland. If you are from elsewhere, please check the visa requirements at:

www.weisungen.bfm.admin.ch