

Spectral Theory and Applications in Mathematical Physics, STAMP

- a Workshop in Honour of Christiane Tretter -

June 2-5, 2025, University Berne

City of Berne

Bern is also the capital of the canton of Bern, the second-most populous of Switzerland's cantons. The official language is German,[note 4] but the main spoken language is the local variant of the Alemannic Swiss German dialect, Bernese German. In 1983, the historic old town (in German: Altstadt) in the centre of Bern became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is notably surrounded by the Aare, a major river of the Swiss Plateau.

Although fortified settlements were established since antiquity, the medieval city proper was founded by the Zähringer ruling family, probably in 1191 by Berthold V, Duke of Zähringen. Bern was made a free imperial city in 1218 and, in 1353, it joined the Swiss Confederacy, becoming one of its eight early cantons. Since then, Bern became a large city-state and a prominent actor of Swiss history by pursuing a policy of sovereign territorial expansion. Since the 15th century, the city was progressively rebuilt and acquired its current characteristics. Bern was made the Federal City in 1848. From about 5,000 inhabitants in the 15th century, the city passed the 100,000 mark in the 1920s.

Einstein House Berne

The Einsteinhaus (Einstein House) is a museum and a former residence of Albert Einstein. It is located on Kramgasse No. 49 in Bern, Switzerland. A flat on the second floor of the house was occupied by Einstein, his wife Mileva Marić, and their son Hans Einstein from 1903 to 1905. The Annus Mirabilis papers, which presented Einstein's theory of relativity and contributed substantially to the foundation of modern physics, were written here and published in the Annalen der Physik. During this time Einstein worked at the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property.

The living conditions of Einstein and his family are shown accurately in the apartment on the second floor with furniture from that time. Einstein's biography and his life's work are presented on the third floor.

A smaller permanent exhibition is located at the Historical Museum of Bern.

Rose garden Berne

The rose garden is a park to the north-east of the old town in the Schosshalde district of Bern.

The gardens are popular with locals and tourists alike. It is popular as a vantage point with a good view of the Old Town, has a restaurant, a large children's playground and a library with a reading garden.

The Rosengarten can be reached in just a few minutes from the centre on bus route 10 towards Ostermundigen (Rosengarten station). However, there are hardly any car parking spaces for private transport nearby and they are usually overcrowded.

The site was used as a cemetery from 1765 until the Schosshalden cemetery was opened in 1877. In 1913, it was converted into a public park and roses were grown here from 1917.

The pond complex with the two monumental groups Europa and Neptune by Karl Hännly has existed since 1918. The park was redesigned in 1956. A bust of Jeremias Gotthelf created by Arnold Huggler in 1937 had to make way for the new summer restaurant in 1960 and was moved in front of the pavilion with the dialect library.

Today, 223 rose, 200 iris and 28 rhododendron species grow in the Bern Rose Garden. In 1997, twelve new lime trees were planted along the avenue of crosses, which dates back to the time of the cemetery.

Exakte Wissenschaften, Sidlerstrasse 5

The history of the site started in 1812 when a wooden observation gallery and ten years later a telluric observatory were built on what was then the Hohliebe bastion forming part of the baroque city fortifications – the oldest reference point of Swiss land surveying. The old Physics Institute was erected on the same site in 1876/77 and continued to house a telluric observatory, i.e. instruments for geodesy, under its dome. (Astronomy was pursued at Muesmatt Observatory from 1922.) The new Institute of Exact Sciences was constructed between 1959 and 1963. Between 1972 and 1974, today's "Kragenbau", a large structure particularly visible from the tracks in the railway station with sunken inner courtyards and several basement levels, was erected around this building. The last building phase took place between 1991 and 1994 and comprised the installation of the library in the inner courtyard along similar lines to the Unitobler as well as the building services.

Without doubt the most interesting component of this ensemble is the core building by the recently deceased Reinhard architecture couple who leave behind a work of architecture renowned well beyond the boundaries of Bern. The presence of the somewhat inconspicuously clad building with steel, glass and light limestone reminiscent of a central structure is based on the courtyard typology.

The layout shows clearly how the architects created varying spatial depths and hence a surprising variety of spatial options for access and usage with a slightly eccentric arrangement of the courtyard on four sides of the building.