

A steep-banked UNESCO world heritage site set in a tight loop of the River Aare, complete with name-sake bear pit and Einstein's House, where the genius developed his Theory of Relativity and helped discover Toblerone (no joke); that's small but sexy Bern, capital of Switzerland.

Check out the classy, ambient downstairs bar, and fine Swiss-Italian cuisine upstairs, at gay-friendly and central **Lorenzini** (Hotelgasse 10; [www.lorenzini.ch](http://www.lorenzini.ch)). Or try trendy **Cinematte** (Wasserwerksgasse 7; [www.cinematte.ch](http://www.cinematte.ch)) tucked away down by the river with its stylish bar and lounge, cinema screening arty Euro films and light and airy eatery.

Tummy primed, sink some drink! Drop down into tiny, cosy **Aux Petits Fours** (Kramgasse 67) back in the centre - a hip gay haunt in one of Bern's cute Old Town cellars, flickering charm through the candlelight. Or lively **Comeback** bar (Rathausgasse 42), just one street over, pulls off much the same trick. For something on a far grander scale, nearby mixed **Kornhauskeller** (Kornhausplatz 18; [www.kornhaus.org/kornhaus/keller](http://www.kornhaus.org/kornhaus/keller)) offers a huge, vaulted cellar with giant barrel at one end and a sea of tables from which to preen and be seen.

When toes start to twitch, the small dance floor and modern refit of old gay stalwart **Samurai** club (Aarberggasse 35; [www.samurai-bar.ch](http://www.samurai-bar.ch)) still cuts it, a little back towards the train station, pulling in young boys with pop, house and trance. And next door at weekends, **Prinzclub** (Aarberggasse 35; [www.prinzclub.ch](http://www.prinzclub.ch)) is the newest and biggest weekly queer bash in town - colourful and fresh with chill-out room and dance floor playing music to please all sorts.

Otherwise, there's less frequent gay clubbing fare, yet all worth the wait. Retro disco at **Next Motion** (at Anderland, Mühleplatz 10) drums up a hectic youthful party every first Friday of the month; **Tolerdance** (at ISC, Neubrückestrasse 10; [www.tolerdance.ch](http://www.tolerdance.ch)), where drinks

# BERN BABY, BERN

**Chocolate and cheese, mountain and lake, money and men: ADRIAN GILLAN is far from neutral about the sizzling scene in Swiss capital Bern.**

are cheap, dishes out trance and pop every fourth Saturday; infamous **Bubennacht** (at Du Theatre, Hotelgasse 10; [www.buben.ch](http://www.buben.ch)) delivers gay house nights five times a year; and **True Colors** (at Gaskessel, Sandrainstrasse 25; [www.truecolors.ch](http://www.truecolors.ch)) - sprawling over two dance floors, plus several bars and lounges - is undoubtedly Bern's biggest gay do, again five times a year.

If dancing's not your thing, try books, vids and boy toys at gay sex shop **Loveland** (Gerechtigkeitsgasse 41), or enjoy the short tram ride to **Aqualis** sauna (Brunnmattstrasse 21; [www.aqualis-sauna-club.ch](http://www.aqualis-sauna-club.ch)) - especially on a "Swiss Fist" night, don't ask; or cruise the delightful **Rose Gardens** by night, just over the river up on the hill to the left of the aforementioned bear pit - or the barren **Grosse Schanze** parkland just behind the main station. As ever, be wary.

You might time a visit around **Queersicht** ([www.queersicht.ch](http://www.queersicht.ch)), Bern's celebrated Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, when LGB movies from Switzerland and around the world screen at cinemas across town.

We could definitely recommend gay-friendly **Hotel Allegro** (Kornhausstrasse 3; [www.allegro-hotel.ch](http://www.allegro-hotel.ch)), just across the river on one side of its bend - a classy 4-star designer affair with amazing rooms-with-views, a fab health spa and scrummy restaurant: easy walk to Old Town and scene, or just roll out of bed into adjoining casino.

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