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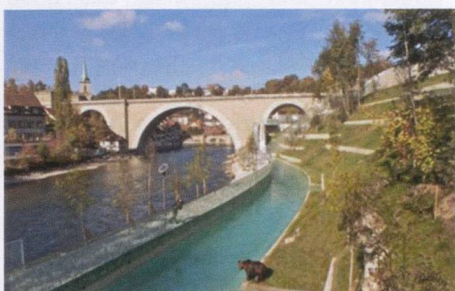
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## Berne's Bear Park

The Bärengraben (bear pit) is a well-known tourist attraction in the city of Berne. It comprises an enclosure housing bears situated at the eastern edge of the old city of Berne, next to the Nydegg bridge and the River Aare. Although still in use, it was expanded in 2009 by the adjacent BärenPark (Bear Park), a larger and more natural enclosure alongside the River Aare.



BärenPark  
©www.bern.com

The first records of bears being kept in the city come from 1513, when the chronicler Valerius Anshelm described how the Bernese returned home victorious from the Battle of Novara, carrying both the captured standards and a living bear as spoils of war.

The first bear pit was at what is still called the Bärenplatz (bear square). The current pit is the fourth such enclosure and was first opened in 1857.

Between 1994 and 1996, the Bärengraben was completely renovated to improve conditions for the bears. Despite this, the keeping of bears in what still remained a bear pit led to many complaints. This, as well as new legal requirements, prompted a rethink of how the bears are kept.

As a result, the BärenPark was opened in 2009 on the steeply sloping land between the Bärengraben and the bank of the River Aare. The original bear pit and the BärenPark were linked by a tunnel, allowing the bears to make use of both spaces.



BärenPark  
Photo by Adrian Blaser



Alter Bärengraben  
Photo by Adrian Blaser

## Fun tips for Berne

### Bernaqua

A world of water and pure pleasure awaits you at the new Bernaqua – Water Park & Spa, the largest relaxation and wellness destination in Switzerland. Around 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of water areas, three giant slides and 18 pools invite you to swim, play, explore and relax. There is something for young and old, mums and dads!

Check it out on <http://www.bernaqua.ch>

### Aaretubing

Tubing is a fun new way to enjoy the Rivers of Switzerland!!! The tubes are specially designed, large, rubber rings covered with a comfortable canvas to float down the river on.

They are stable in the water, enabling the rider to relax and enjoy the beautiful summer weather and refreshing, cool water. Sounds like good fun for everyone!

<http://www.aaretubing.ch>

### Märlipinte

Enjoy a delicious meal while the little ones get entertained and can play around us much as they want, while being surrounded by clowns, fairies and witches. A place where parents can dream and the kids can be kids.

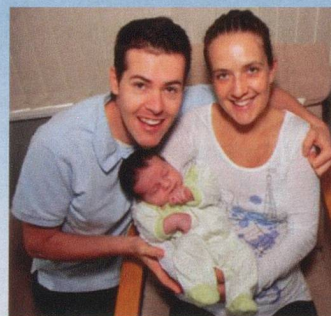
How does that sound? It's possible at:

<http://www.maerlipinte.ch/>  
By Alexandra Beskid Jung

## Chuderwälsch (Swiss Dialect)

- ◇ Fadäzeindli – sewing basket
- ◇ Fäärn – last year
- ◇ Fägä – to mop (the floor)
- ◇ ä Fätzä – a large person
- ◇ Figurehtlä – to fiddle about
- ◇ es Finöggeli – a sensitive child
- ◇ fix u fertig – exhausted, finished
- ◇ e Fötzel – a small piece of paper / a man of poor character
- ◇ fuärig – filling (food)
- ◇ Füdlibrätsch – a smack on the bum

## New Arrival: Erik Sonderegger



Diego, Ana and Erik Sonderegger

Baby Erik arrived safely on April, 18 at 10pm with 4.36 kg and 56cm and, to his parents delight, is continuing to grow daily.