

BURGDORF.

Attractions in and around Burgdorf

Delightful **hilltops** and steep **valleys**



The countless **tales** of Burgdorf **Castle**...



Experience **nature**...



Stroll through a **historic** environment...



Find **art** here...



Between **Gotthelf** and **jazz**...



Why **children love** Burgdorf ...



ARRIVAL.

Surrounded by rolling hills and impressive rocky cliffs, Burgdorf is located at the heart of the Swiss Mittelland. A city as if sprung from a dream, the castle rising high in the centre, the houses of the old town grouped around it. It is a truly exceptional place, bustling with life, cultural diversity and amazing attractions. Above all – a cosy place that makes you feel at home.



Welcome to Burgdorf, the charming town on the banks of the river Emme.

You will be surprised to see how much this town and its surroundings have to offer. An intact historic old town with splendid monuments, many special cultural features and sights, culinary treats galore, attractive accommodation and conference facilities... and all of this set in the fascinating scenery of the Emmental region.

Burgdorf is waiting to be discovered by you. A great many experiences await you in and around the town. For example a stimulating visit to one of the five Burgdorf museums or pleasant walks through the forests, along the river Emme or over lush green hills. We would like to whet your appetite and tempt you to explore the charms of our town after you have read the following pages.

- 1** *Pedestrian and shopping area in the centre of Burgdorf.*
- 2** *View across the rooftops of the historic old town between the church and the castle.*
- 3** *The Stadthaus Hotel. A small jewel of gastronomy at the heart of the old town.*

i » You will find additional information, including maps and locations of the highlights in the tourist guide.



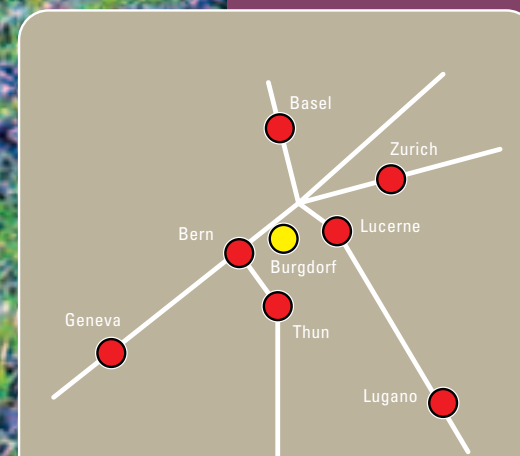
1



2



3





1



2



3



4

1 Burgdorf Castle, which was founded in 1190 by Duke Berchtold V of Zähringen, stands on an enormous cliff. The castle grounds were the favourite residence of the Zähringen nobility until they passed into the ownership of the Earl of Kiburg in 1218. After unsuccessful sieges by the Swiss and the Bernese, the City of Bern purchased the castle and town of Burgdorf in 1348... and so history continued...

2 Burgdorf is home to one of the oldest historical museums in Switzerland. The exhibition in the castle museum depicts an exciting journey of discovery through history and gives an insight into the development of the town and region of Burgdorf as well as into the everyday lives of its citizens between the 17th and 20th centuries.

3 The picturesque old town of Burgdorf is a charming witness to former times. Experience how the place developed and become enchanted by the striking architecture of the Middle Ages and the peaceful, still corners when you take a special, guided tour of the town.

4 Markets are held regularly in the narrow streets of the old town. Twice a week, the stall-holders sell vegetables, fruit, bread and confectionery and a great deal more. Larger annual markets are held every spring, autumn and winter.

i » For additional information refer to chapter «Historic old town» in the tourist guide.



HISTORICAL BURGENDORF.

The bricks of Burgdorf Castle, which are over 800 years old, must have countless stories to tell, including how this town was established surrounding the largest and best-preserved Zähringen castle grounds in Switzerland. Almost model-like historical town planning can be admired in Burgdorf: the feudal upper area of town between the castle and the church hillock and the lower area of the town at the foot of the castle cliff, where the tradesmen were located. Once the keep has been climbed, a breathtaking view opens up over the town with an entire panorama from the Jura to the Alps.

Anyone who is interested in history will find plenty to keep them occupied in Burgdorf. Not only by visiting the museums in the castle, but also by taking a relaxing stroll in the history-soaked atmosphere of the alleys in the old town.

DOWN-TO-EARTH.

In Burgdorf, the road branches out and leads across delightful hilltops and into the steep valleys of the Napf region. The Emmental, a landscape pampered by water and sun, is home to Switzerland's sturdiest cows, proudest farmers and stateliest farms. Here, tradition still flourishes in the valleys and on the «Eggen» hilltops. The world created by the famous writer, Jeremias Gotthelf, seems to have come alive. The steep pathways and solid inns remind us of the many tales of the farm labourer Ueli, which once flickered across cinema screens in black and white and are still broadcast regularly on television.



1 The Swiss Centre for Popular Culture, located at the Kornhaus in Burgdorf, presents the many facets of traditional popular culture in numerous exhibitions and events. The Kornhaus is a meeting place for Swiss folk culture and ancient customs and offers an animated cross-section through Switzerland's traditions.



2 Have you ever experienced a Swiss folk event such as an Emmental «Chilbi» (fun fair) or a traditional Swiss wrestling festival like the «Lueg-Schwinget»? Here, old traditions are celebrated in their purest form. What is more, between spring and autumn, you may hear the cries of joy of the Swiss yodel singers resounding from the Emmental hills.



3 At the Affoltern Exhibition Dairy, you will have an opportunity to see how real Swiss Emmental cheese is prepared from fresh milk. And, if you make an appointment, you may even have a go at cheese-making on an open fire yourself. Of course you will receive expert tuition from a master cheese-maker. Your personal whole cheese will be looked after until it has matured and is ready to be eaten and will even be delivered to you if you so wish.



i For additional information refer to chapter «Down-to-earth» in the tourist guide.

RELAXATION.

The river gave its name to the valley. In some places it is wild and racing, but usually delightful and peaceful. The banks of the river Emme are a paradise for anyone seeking peace and quiet as well as for nature lovers. The quiet murmuring of the crystal-clear water and the birdsong in the woods are almost meditative. Just relax, enjoy the warmth of the sun and experience the peaceful moments of the here and now with closed eyes. Then, after a walk into the old town, continue to enjoy watching the world go by on a quiet terrace with coffee and cake or whatever else you fancy.



1



2



3



4

1 There are secluded corners in the old town of Burgdorf, in which you can easily forget where you are. The warmth of the old sandstone buildings shines directly into the soul. Everything seems tranquil and peaceful, nothing is hectic or noisy... just relax!

2 There is an enormous meadow in the centre of Burgdorf – the Schützenmatte. When one reaches it, it is like entering St Mark's Square in Venice. Suddenly the view opens up over this wide expanse, surrounded by the proud sandstone cliffs and the wooded shores of the river Emme. Stay here for a moment and let your eyes wander... just relax!

3 Remember how it feels to walk through the shaded woods, with the leaves underfoot and the birds twittering in the trees? It is precisely this peace and proximity to mother earth that you can find in the woods of Burgdorf... just relax!

4 The gentle rolling hills of the Emmental, the mighty Bernese Alps in the distance, these are views which stir the soul. They warm one's heart and one feels the breath of nature, forgetting the stresses and worries of everyday life... just relax!

i » For additional information refer to chapter «Relaxing» in the tourist guide.

ART.

This is something you will find only in Burgdorf and nowhere else: the work of the Swiss artist, Franz Gertsch, exhibited in a purpose-built museum. Experience the power and unrivalled impact of the monumental photo-realistic woodcarvings and paintings exhibited in the modern and simple, but nevertheless impressive architecture of the museum building. In addition to the works of Franz Gertsch, the museum also shows international contemporary art through visiting exhibitions. Naturally, this alone justifies a visit to Burgdorf. However, there is much more to be experienced in and around Burgdorf, if you are a lover of art and culture.

1 Museum Franz Gertsch Burgdorf

The museum Franz Gertsch is a privately financed museum dedicated to the oeuvre of Franz Gertsch. The museum also shows visiting exhibitions of contemporary art on over half the exhibition space.

2 Zentrum Paul Klee Bern

With approximately 4000 works, the Zentrum Paul Klee possesses the world's most important collection of paintings, water-colours and drawings as well as archival and biographical material representing all of Paul Klee's creative phases.

Opening in June 2005.

3 Bernhard Luginbühl Foundation Mötschwil

Bernhard Luginbühl, the iron sculpturer and graphic designer, lives and works in a farmhouse in Mötschwil, where he maintains a park, exhibiting his own sculptures. It is open to the public on certain days.

Guided tours are available upon request.



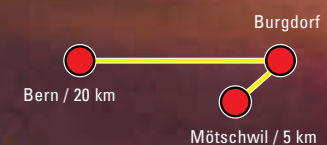
1



2



3



i » For additional information refer to the chapters «Art, theater and literature» and «Museums» in the tourist guide.



1



2



3

EATING OUT AND ENJOYING YOURSELF.

1 *Live it up to your heart's content on one of the cosy Burgdorf terraces, enjoy the sun and watch the world go by... what more could you want...*

2 *...then later go to a «cool» concert or enjoy a performance by the Emmental amateur dramatic society...*

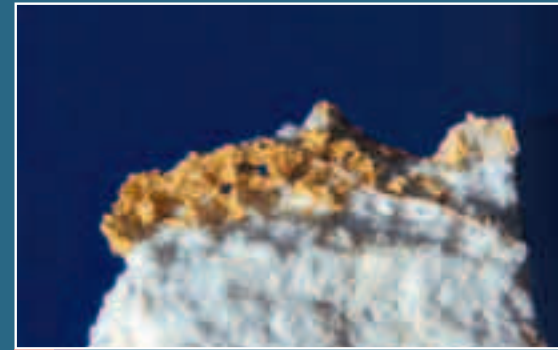
3 *...and finish the day off in a trendy café or bar. You can experience this and much more in Burgdorf and its surroundings.*

i » For additional information refer to the chapters «Eating out and drinking» and «Nightlife» in the tourist guide.

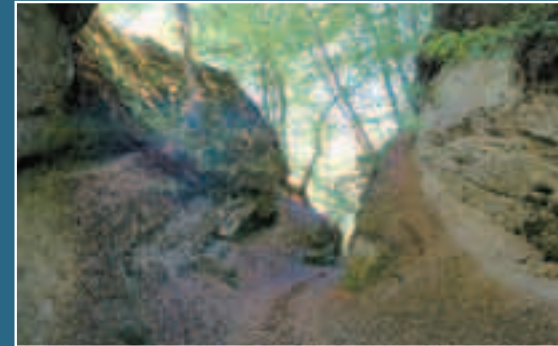
What a selection! Burgdorf will appeal to gourmets, connoisseurs, the hungry and the thirsty. Do you take notice of Gault-Millau points? Or do you prefer something more traditional? Or even trendy? How about a genuine Burgdorf beer? You can choose how you want to escape from everyday life. Perhaps you would like to indulge in something special and might be tempted by the irresistible charms of a 93 Château Marquis, which will open your senses and make you ready for fresh thoughts.

ADVENTURE.

Enticing sandstone quarries and the steeply rising walls of rock awaken the adventurer inside us all. There is a great deal to discover – the traces of the many currents of the ancient sea in the rock, labyrinthine paths and narrow passes in the forest. There is even gold to be found! You might not find pea-sized nuggets, but the Emme riverbed hides the odd flake of this precious metal, which, with a bit of luck and a good deal of thirst for adventure, you may unearth. Once your children have discovered Burgdorf's adventures, they will not want to leave. Even less so, once they start following in the footsteps of famous detectives to solve a crime.



1



2



3



4

1 Burgdorf is home to the Swiss Gold Museum. In the castle's former dungeon, visitors may trace the fascinating history of gold. Here, you will learn about the Swiss gold rush and marvel at the many discoveries of gold, tools and documents on display. You may even try your luck and win some real gold!

2 The narrow passes, cut deeply into the hill slopes, are a paradise for adventurers both large and small. The caves hidden in Burgdorf's forest were once part of the early modern road connections between Bern and Lucerne. They rose steeply to join the high roads of the Mittelland.

3 A whiff of adventure! Leisurely and quietly, lamas will accompany you on remote trails across the Emmental landscape. This journey with an extraordinary animal, with which you will immediately become firm friends, is a great experience for young and old.

4 The legendary river Emme invites you to make discoveries. Back in the old days, people used to say that it contained a dangerous snake with a little green dwarf riding on its head. But nobody seems to have ever seen it. Today, the river and its banks are a place to swim, barbecue, play or to wander along the Emme Adventure Path.

i » For additional information refer to the chapters «Adventure» and «Hiking, bike tours and more» in the tourist guide.



OUTDOORS.

Traverse the landscape and let your eyes wander, gape in astonishment at the ever-changing views behind the seemingly endless hilltops. You will experience the wonderful feeling of being close to oneself and nature on foot or somewhat faster on two wheels. Can you smell the hay? Can you hear the gentle rustling of the wind in the pine trees? Too romantic to be true? Just try it for yourself. You will see: Burgdorf and its surroundings are a little dream in green and blue, and so real that one can open one's eyes.



1

Silent, fast and uncomplicated. Burgdorf and its surroundings provide an extraordinarily large network of cycle paths, which will captivate you. The wide range of bicycle excursions combines relaxation with discovery. You don't even have to bring your own bicycle, you can hire one from railway stations and elsewhere... and you are already on your way.



2

Enjoy the countryside on rollerblades, either at a sporty or more leisurely pace. Whichever you choose it is good exercise and very enjoyable for the whole family. The lower course of the river Emme is a real skater's paradise. Lots of small tarmaced roads, with hardly any traffic. And if you are not yet feeling very confident on skates, there is even an Emmental inline school.



3

Emmental and golf – a delightful combination. A first-class golf course with its own golf school is waiting for you in magical scenery. Carefully manicured fairways, fast greens and deep bunkers. The magnificent Bernese Alps and the Jura greet you from afar. Pure relaxation and much much more!

i » For additional information refer to the chapters «Hiking, bike tours and more» and «Sport, wellness» in the tourist guide.

ACCOMMODATION AND CONFERENCES.

When people from Bern, Zurich, Basel, Thun, Solothurn and Lucerne want to meet for a seminar or conference, they frequently choose Burgdorf. Not only because Burgdorf is located right in the middle, but also because everything that goes with it is just perfect. During a break or after work, you need only walk 2 minutes to reach a museum, 5 minutes to the edge of the forest, drive for 5 minutes to the «Golfpark» golf course and for 10 minutes to arrive at a vantage point with a breathtaking view across the Emmental. Not to mention everything that lies behind the next hilltop.



1 At the centre of the historic old town, ideally located to explore the town's attractions, you will find the historic charm and the beautifully decorated rooms of the Stadthaus Hotel. This small jewel offers luxuriously decorated single and double rooms and suites with fine furniture from three centuries.

2+3 If you want your workshops, training courses, conferences and seminars to be as enjoyable as possible, Burgdorf is the right place for you. Your Burgdorf hosts will ensure that your event is a success by offering you package deals and ancillary programmes tailored to your requirements.

4 The Berchtold Hotel – named after the last of the great Zähringen dukes – is quite an unusual place. It combines time-honoured, impressive architecture and a modern, contemporary attitude towards life. Enjoy the unique ambiance, vitality and conviviality of this hotel, which reflect both times past and the dynamics of today.

i » For additional information refer to the chapters «Hotels, accommodation, camping» and «Seminars, conferences» in the tourist guide.



1



2



3



4

INNOVATION .

No other Swiss town produces as much solar energy per capita as Burgdorf. Is it a town populated by revolutionaries? Well, perhaps. For centuries, this charming small town has been home to pioneering spirits. Many a trend-setting idea was put into practice in Burgdorf in an almost model-like fashion. There are so many things to admire and to learn from with regard to mobility, energy and protection of the environment. Curious contemporaries are therefore always most welcome.

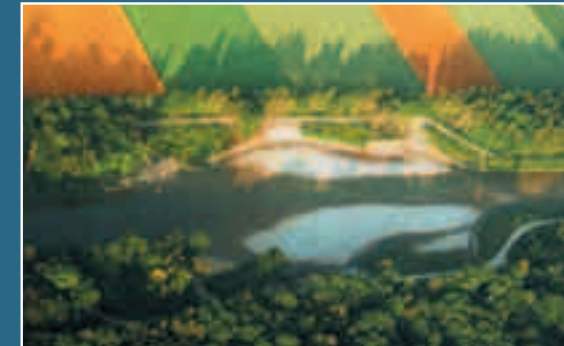


1 Since 1996, Burgdorf has officially been the (only) «Swiss Model Town for Pedestrians and Cyclists». Ever since Burgdorf was awarded this title by the «Federal Swiss Energy Programme», the town has been implementing innovative projects and offers for both pedestrians and cyclists. The experience gained and the results achieved within the framework of this project are used as a blueprint for similar measures in other cities and regarded as pioneering.



1

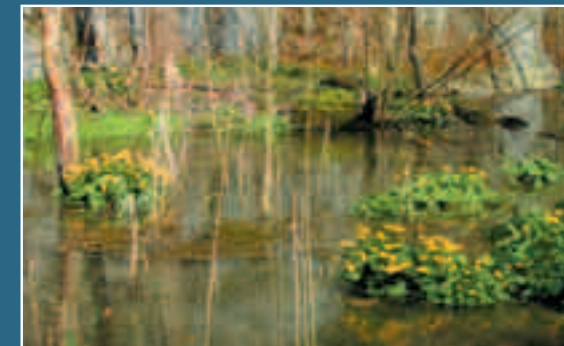
2 The river Emme is Burgdorf's natural «life-line» and shapes its landscape. Innovative hydraulic engineering projects have been carried out in and around Burgdorf as part of a modern flood protection policy and an ecological reassessment of the waters.



2

3 Several nature reserves and protected flood-plain landscapes of national importance are to be found in the surroundings of Burgdorf. They are home to the kingfisher and sand-piper, to gravel banks, meadows, wild garlic and much more. For many years, Burgdorf has been promoting the conservation and maintenance of the indigenous fauna and flora.

i » For additional information refer to the chapters «Environment», «Energy city» and «Mobility city» in the tourist guide.



3

© Stadtmaking Burgdorf, 2004

Publisher:

Stadtmaking Burgdorf
stadtmarketing@burgdorf.ch

Conceptual design:

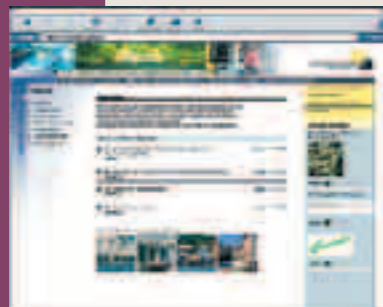
Stadtmaking Burgdorf
Visualize, Burgdorf
büro für utopien, Burgdorf

Layout:

Visualize, Burgdorf

Photographs:

Verena Gerber, Burgdorf
Roland Spring, Burgdorf
Visualize, Burgdorf
Stadthaus Group, Burgdorf
Golfpark, Oberburg
Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern
Bernhard Luginbühl Stiftung, Mötschwil
Museen im Schloss, Burgdorf
Oberingenieurkreis IV, Burgdorf
IMPULS, Thun
Tourist Office, Burgdorf
Regionalverkehr Mittelland AG
Pro Emmental, Langnau



This brochure is available at:

Tourist Office Burgdorf
Bahnhofstrasse 44
CH-3400 Burgdorf
+41 (0)34 423 69 05
touristoffice.burgdorf@rm-rail.ch

Further information may be obtained at:

www.burgdorf.ch
www.burgdorf-tourismus.ch
www.burgdorf-city.ch
www.burgdorf-business.ch
www.stadt-burgdorf.ch
www.burgdorf-umwelt.ch