## Bern (Amsterdam to Columbus Avenues)



Bern is the capital of the Swiss Federation and sits somewhere in the middle of the country, between the French-speaking West and the German-speaking rest. The city is best known for its mediaeval Old Town, with a proliferation of buildings from the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The entire old quarter was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983, and remains a beguiling place for an afternoon of itinerary-less wandering.

In outlook, however, the city is somewhat like Brussels, populated primarily with Government bureaucrats, and indigenous Bernese folk. The name of the city means "bear," and since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it has had a bear pit to house its heraldic beasts.

All in all, a pleasant, unassuming sort of town, filled with pleasant, unassuming people.



13 – Mediaeval structure trapped between two high-rises.



14 – Mediaeval facades.



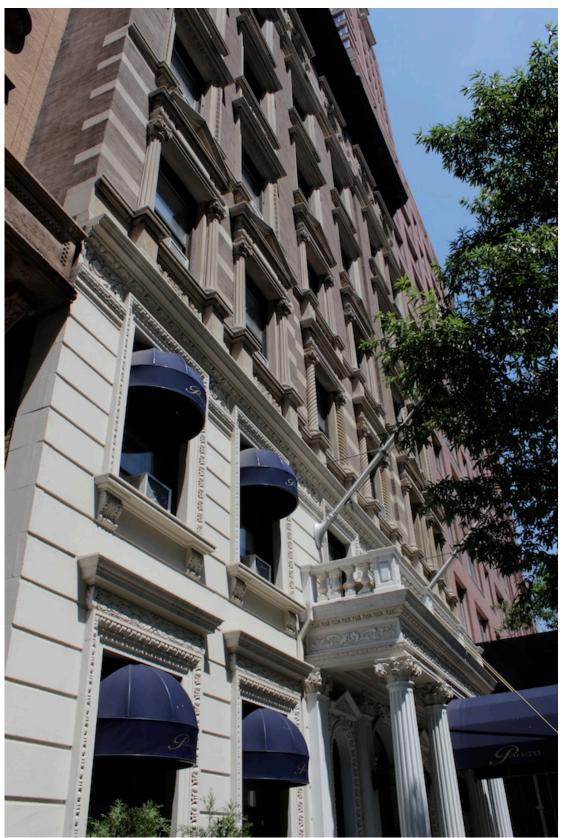
15 – More mediaeval facades.



16 – Channeling mediaeval England.



17 – Modern, upscale apartments.



18 – Another modern, upscale apartment block.