



World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

UNITED FOR CONSERVATION

The Executive Director
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W 0852

Dear AEWA TC Participant

WAZA – The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums is proud to co-host you at the forthcoming **7th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee in Bern, Switzerland from 29 October – 01 November 2006**. We have taken on the part of providing most of the logistical support and would like to provide the following information in order to facilitate your travel arrangements.

Red Tape

Citizens of EU and EFTA countries don't need a passport for entering Switzerland. An Identity Card ("Personalausweis") will do. All others need a valid passport and, depending of their home country, a visa. Switzerland has just become a Party to the Schengen Agreement, and, in principle, Schengen rules should apply as from September, which means that persons requiring visa could enter Switzerland with a VISA issued by any Schengen country (and *vice versa*). However, as all this is brand new, better contact the Swiss Consulate. For obtaining invitation letters to show the Consulate, you may contact my PA Sabine Gyger at waza.secretariat@bluewin.ch. If you encounter problems and need further assistance regarding visa, please contact the Federal Office of the Environment (FOEN), which may take the issue up with Foreign Affairs. (**Note from AEWA Secretariat: For all visa-related issues please first contact the Secretariat and we will arrange for you to receive appropriate invitations from the host organisations**).

Hotel Booking

Hotel bookings should be made through the WAZA Executive Office. We have pre-booked a number of rooms, and hope to be able to accommodate all, or most, of you at the Hotel ISOLA, which is next to the WAZA Office and the venue of the Meeting. Rates for a single room with bath or shower, WC, phone and TV will range from CHF 112 to 120 (approximately EURO 75 to 80). This includes continental breakfast. Twin bedded rooms are CHF 162 to 170 (EURO 108 to 114) for two persons. In order to book, please contact Sabine Gyger at waza.secretariat@bluewin.ch indicating your arrival and departure dates. (**Note from AEWA Secretariat: For all hotel-related issues, unless you prefer to arrange accommodation by yourself, please first contact the Secretariat and we will arrange hotel booking for you with WAZA office**).

WAZA COUNCIL

No advance payment is required. The hotel will accept MasterCard, VISA, Diners Club, American Express and Maestro Cards.

In case of late arrivals (after 6 PM), please call the hotel at 0041-31-302 17 11.



Hotel ISOLA, where delegates will be accommodated, in front entrance to parking garage “Stadtbach”



The University Hospital's Training Centre, where the meeting will take place. In front the “red bridge”

Travel to Berne – by Car

If travelling by car, please use the exit “Forsthaus” on the highway Berne-Geneva/Fribourg. Follow the signs towards City Centre. Immediately after the parking garage “Insel” – actually at the venue of the meeting - turn to the left, cross the red bridge and continue for 100 m. The Hotel is on the right hand side next to the parking garage “Stadtbach”. Note that all the surroundings are “blue zone” which means free parking on the roads is limited to 1.5 hours during day time.

Travel to Berne – by Flight to Berne Airport

Berne has a small airport with a limited number of flights from and to Munich, London City and a few holiday destinations. We recommend flying into Berne only if you come from London or have reasonably short transfer times at Munich, otherwise flights to Zurich are more convenient. There is a bus shuttle from the airport to Berne Main Station. If you tell us your arrival time, we will do our best to pick you up by car at the airport.

Travel to Berne – by Flight to Zurich, Basel or Geneva

The most convenient option is Zurich Airport. There is a railway station at the airport with two direct trains to Berne every hour. Transfer time from the airport to Berne is 1 h 15 min to 1 h 20 min.

Geneva Airport also has a railway station with one to two direct Intercity trains to Berne every hour. Transfer time is 1 h 50 min to 1 h 55 min.

When flying into Basel, make sure you take the Exit to Switzerland. Otherwise you will end up in France and may have some difficulties in finding your way to Berne. Basel-Airport does not have a railway station. Take the bus to “Bahnhof SBB”, which will take you in 15 minutes to the Swiss Railway Station. There are one to two Intercities per hour two Berne, transfer time is 55 to 58 minutes.

About Trains in Switzerland

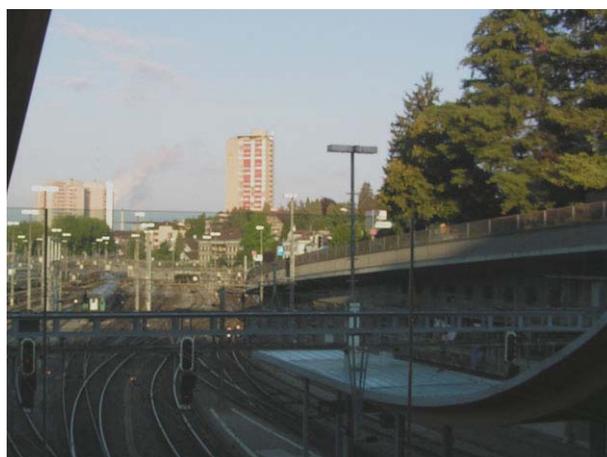
One-way or return tickets are to be purchased at the stations. Either go to a counter (recommended for foreigners) or use your credit or Maestro card for purchasing the ticket at an automat. Seat reservations are not necessary. Intercity trains are all modern and clean. Also 2nd class, which is much cheaper than 1st class, provides good comfort. All trains are smoke-free, most Intercity trains have a wagon-restaurant.

How to get from Berne Main Station to Hotel ISOLA or the WAZA Office

Unless you have heavy luggage, take the stairs/escalators leading up from the train platform to the Exit West, turn to the right and take a second escalator to Stadtbachstrasse. Turn there to the left and walk in about 10 minutes to the Hotel. Please see the attached map of the relevant locations.



"The Wave" – the new Exit West of Berne Main Station



Office and Hotel Isola are next to this high building you can see already from the Exit West of Berne Main Station

However, if you are afraid of getting lost, follow the "Taxi" signs at the station and take a cab...

Language

Berne is located in the (Swiss) German-speaking part of Switzerland, but only about 20 km from the French speaking area, and French is the first foreign language at school. Most people will also be able to communicate in English. Note that there is a fairly high percentage of foreigners who may speak Turkish, Albanian or a Slavian language, but neither English nor French.

Icebreaker

On Saturday, October 28, as from 1800 h we expect you to join us for an Icebreaker at the WAZA Office, where you will receive further information on meeting and side-events. The Office is located at Lindenrain 3, very close from Hotel ISOLA and the Training Centre.

Miscellaneous

- Criminality is relatively low in Switzerland. But never leave your luggage unattended at airports or railway stations.
- Weather in October is mostly nice, but it can be quite cold in the mornings and evenings.

- During the Conference, coffee, mineral water and snacks will be provided. Lunches will be offered at the Restaurants DONUM (international/Swiss food) and INDIAN KING (obviously Indian food). Vegetarian meals will be available at either place.
- At the excursion we will take you to a Ramsar Reserve, which by definition is wet, and to a subalpine area in the Jura Mountains. Anorak and decent shoes are highly recommended. And don't forget your binoculars!

Yours sincerely

**WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**

The Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Dollinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dollinger".

Peter Dollinger