



# The Book of Everything

Woodstock.Bio<sup>2</sup> & Night Science

#theconferencetoendallconferences

#TCTeAC

Prague & Bohemia, 10.–13.6. 2025



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**IOCB TEC-H**



## Program at Glance

### 10.6. PRAGUE DOWNTOWN

12:00–13:00 registration – Kino Lucerna, Vodickova 704/36

13:00–15:30 **Session 1** – Kino Lucerna, Vodickova 704/36

16:30–20:00 **Sessions 2A/E & 3A/E** – Campus Hybernska, Hybernska 998/4

20:00–22:00 dinner & social event – Campus Hybernska, Hybernska 998/4

*Campus Hybernska events sponsored by IOCB-TECH*

### 11.6. PRAGUE DOWNTOWN

9:00–12:30 **Sessions 4 & 5** – Modra room, Karolinum, Ovocný trh 560/5

12:30–14:30 Nothing Box (free time to move)

14:30–18:00 **Sessions 6 & 7** – Velka geologicka room, Albertov 6

19:00–23:00 dinner & social event – Vysehrad “Na hradbach”

### 12.6. CENTRAL BOHEMIA

8:45–**9:00** meeting at the train station Praha Vrsovice

9:05–11:05 train ride to the YMCA Camp Sobesin (station Vranovice)

#### YMCA Camp Sobesin:

11:45–13:00 **Session 8**

13:00–14:00 lunch

14:00–15:00 **Session 9**

15:00–17:00 **Poster Session**

17:00–19:00 extravaganza program

19:00–20:00 dinner

20:00–21:30 music evening – Josef Šenki & band

21:30–21:45 Oded's Very Special Session - Do Not Miss It!

21:45–23:00 music evening – DJ

**23:00** booked bus departure to Prague (Prague arrival ~ midnight).

23:00– ... meeting finale of those staying (accommodation for free)

### 13.6. CENTRAL BOHEMIA (awakening & departures)

7:30–8:30 canoe rental followed by departures on boats

**9:30** booked bus departure to Prague (Prague arrival ~11:00)

9:35 public train departure from Vranice (Prague arrival 12:05)

11:35 public train departure from Vranice (Prague arrival 14:05)

Some options for canoe goers from Cesky Sternberk:

11:46 public train from the station (Prague arrival 14:05)

13:00 booked bus from the village center

Visual help for obsessive-compulsive meeting's beer coaster collectors



(so you know when you have them all)

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## Science Talk **LIVE CHAT**

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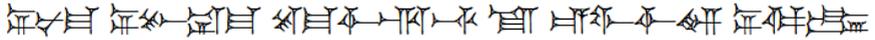
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## Welcome from Instigators

Welcome to Woodstock Night Science 2025 in Prague and the Woods of Bohemia! We're thrilled you've made it to our "workshop of the possible"!

What do we need for science? "An atmosphere of enthusiasm, lucid criticism, nonconformism, and friendship", said François Jacob, and this has been our inspiration in planning Woodstock Night Science as a celebration of the joy of discovery; something absolutely needed in these dark times when science is under threat worldwide. Our goal is to gather as a group of scientists who love science, to facilitate the exchange of ideas among us and to encourage an open 'night science' mind as we think about scientific problems. We believe this will reaffirm our commitment to science through creative interactions that we know leads to the scientific discoveries that inspire us.

The sessions will be very heterogeneous – spanning most of biology, and beyond. The idea is that presenting to wide audiences will provide us all with new connections to make more discoveries. Presenters are encouraged to talk about unpublished data; the things they are thinking about right now. Instead of making presentations that seek to impress, we encourage presenters to explain clearly what they are most passionate about now, for the sake of getting new ideas.

Each session will also have fun "night science" to entertain and inspire us! And let's not forget about the festival in the woods of bohemia on the last day! Get ready for an amazing time, experiencing the awe of nature, big ideas and discovery.

### Instigators

Natanella Illouz-Eliaz, @nataneliae, Salk Institute  
Oded Rechavi, @odedrechavi, Tel Aviv University  
Petr Svoboda, @svobodalab, IMG Prague  
Pavel Tomančák, @paveltomancak, MPI-CBG Dresden  
Itai Yanai, @itaiyanai, New York University  
Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz, @zernickagoetz, CalTech & Cambridge

### Bohemian fixers

Jan Dobeš, @honzadobes87, Charles University  
Klára Hlouchová, @KlaraH\_lab, Charles University  
Jan Mašek, @maseklab.bsky.social, Charles University  
Petr Svoboda, @svobodalab, IMG Prague

# Detailed program

## PRAGUE DOWNTOWN 10.6.

**Kino Lucerna** – Vodickova 704/36

12:00-13:00 Registration

13:00-15:30 **Session 1**

### **What's the physiological relevance?**

*Elewa · Fejes Toth · Illouz-Eliaz · Krchlikova · Mašek · Miska · Poetsch · Pushkarev · Riedl · Rink · Stripp · Varga · Yanai · Žarski*

15:50-16:30 transfer & coffee break ·

**Campus Hybernska** – Hybernska 998/4

16:30-18:00 **Session 2** (parallel sessions)

### **Session 2A: Daydreamers Anonymous**

*Bar M. · Ferosh · Fiedler · Chmatal · Pekárek · Rak · Rera · Riedl-Fajtak · Roitman · Saenz · Sharma*

### **Session 2E: Beautiful contradictions**

*Bar D. · Bočan · Doll · Heidingsfeld · Chintaluri · Jahnel · Jaworski · Jeffet · Manich · Saravanan · Truckenbrodt*

18:00-18:30 coffee break

18:30-20:00 **Session 3** (parallel sessions)

### **Session 3A: Only thing standing between you and dinner**

*Akay · Anders · Brázdovič · Glazar · Majewska · Mazzoni · Milosevic · Schlesinger · Schmidt Cernohorska · Veverka*

### **Session 3E: Better suited for a specialized journal**

*Barker · Bologna · Hyrossova · Jain · Jambor · Kozmikova · Lev · Mahajan · Rabagliati · Raj*

20:00-22:00 dinner & social event



## PRAGUE DOWNTOWN 11.6.

**Karolinum** – Ovocný trh 560/5

9:00-10:30 **Session 4**

**Don't anthropomorphize genes - they don't like it**

*Dobeš · Ebenstein · Grigaitis · Kratochvíl · Lercher · Ofir · Pilpel · Sazanov · Schirman · Toiber · Žunar*

10:30-11:00 coffee break

11:00-12:30 **Session 5**

Not all who wander are lost

*Calegari · Janickova · Lesch · Saleh · Šebej · Towbin · Tzur · Unfried · Veenliet · Zarivach · Zernicka-Goetz*

12:30-14:30 nothing box

**Albertov** – Albertov 6

11.6. 14:30-16:00 **Session 6**

**The Gorilla in the data**

*Bromberg · Gaebelein · Gazit · Hnilicová · Karagoz · Lukačičinová · Martin · Miklik · Rechavi · Rotblat · Saini*

11.6. 16:30-18:00 **Session 7**

**The Workshop of the possible**

*Bailles · Beristain · Carles · Desnoyer · Gruber · Michael · Sade · Shahar · Svoboda · Zhou*

11.6. 18:00-20:00 walk it out

11.6. 19:00-23:00 dinner & social event at **Vysehrad Na hradbach**



## CENTRAL BOHEMIA 12.6.

**Nadrazi Vrsovice** – Ukrajinska 304, GPS: 50°03'53.182"N, 14°26'52.043"E

8:50-9:00 meeting at the train station & train boarding

9:00-11:05 train ride to the campsite

**YMCA Camp Sobesin** – GPS: 49°47'39"N, 14°58'52"E.

11:05-11:45 assembly at the campsite & organizational items

11:45-13:00 **Session 8**

**Data junkies delight**

*Allweil · Aravin · Baranašić · Co · Kněžů · Schartner · Tomancak · Zolotarov*

13:00-14:00 lunch

14:00-15:00 **Session 9**

**'Fishing expeditions' are great for catching fish**

*Dexheimer · Fortmueller · Hartl · Lindwall · Michaeli · Sero · Shcherbata · Vopalensky · Zielinski*

15:00-17:00 **Poster Session**

17:00-19:00 **Science Extravaganza Session ↓**

19:00-20:00 dinner

20:00-21:30 music evening – Josef Šenki & band

21:30-21:45 **Oded's Very Special Session** - Do Not Miss It!

21:45-23:00 music evening - DJs

23:00 – buses depart back to Prague (arrival around midnight).

23:00- ... meeting finale of those who stay in huts (accommodation for free)

## CENTRAL BOHEMIA 13.6. departures

9:30 - buses depart back to Prague (arrival before noon).

Some options for canoe goers from Cesky Sternberk:

11:46 public train from the station (Prague arrival 14:05)

13:00 booked bus from the village center

13:45 public train from the station (Prague arrival 16:05)

# The YMCA Extravaganza Game



At YMCA Campsite

June 12th

cca 17:00 - 19:00

## How to play?



1. Try as many activities as possible



2. Collect or win TOKEN stickers



3. Stick them to your conference badge



4. If you think you have a lot of them, find PAVEL Tomaneak during dinner



Hut (2) — The Barkley Marathon - Soběšín edition: a science-themed journey on a bike, foot, and canoe, inspired by the legendary Barkley Marathon *(for individuals, competitive)*



Hut (3) — Dance Karaoke with science prompts *(for individuals or groups, non-competitive)*



Hut (4) — So many plants, so little time, an exercise in biodiversity *(for individuals, competitive)*



Hut (5) — Exploring the Calm Beyond Reviewer 2: a guided meditation for navigating the emotional rollercoaster of peer review. *(for individuals or groups, non-competitive)*

Hut (6) — You just keep me hanging on: science quiz meets Adam Ondra *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (7) — Improvisation: science CAN be funny *(for groups, non-competitive)*

Hut (8) — Draw Together Stranger: pen and paper and 1 minute, don't forget scale bars *(for individuals or groups, non-competitive)*

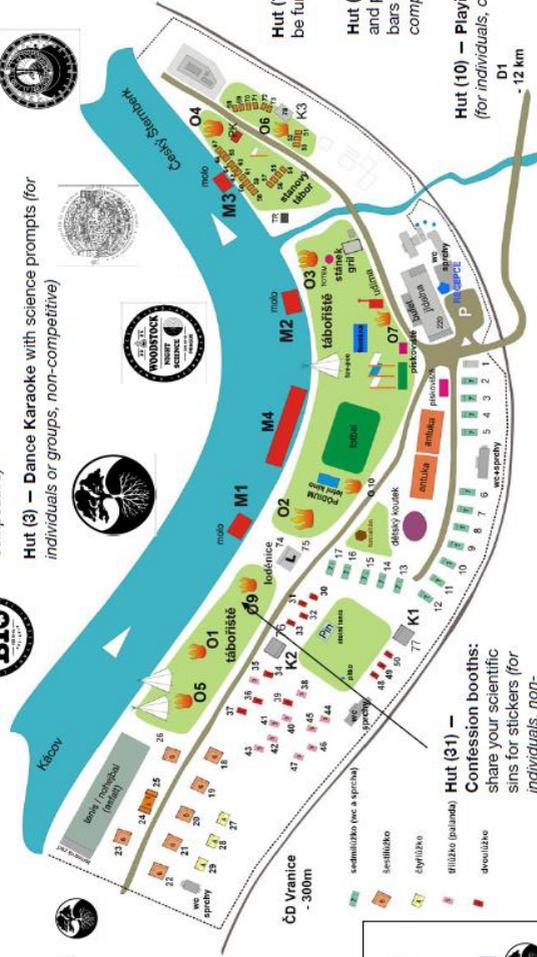
Hut (9) — Playing with Probability: it is in the cards *(for individuals, competitive)*

Hut (10) — Giant bubbles: bubbles troubles *(for individuals, non-competitive)*

Hut (11) — Biochemist's audition: sing along with lyrics that matter *(for individuals, non-competitive)*

Hut (12) — Codenames: with posters! *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (13) — Tender Slender Science Lies: say it like it is, what do scientists actually mean *(for individuals, non-competitive)*



Hut (31) — Confession booths: share your scientific sins for stickers *(for individuals, non-competitive)*

Hut (14) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (15) — Change-your-mind: debate to win, no matter what *(for individuals, competitive)*

Hut (16) — Change-your-mind: pexeso for fit people *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (17) — Witch Hunt - The Amphibian Edition: find your inner amphibian *(for groups, non-competitive)*

Hut (18) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (19) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (20) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (21) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (22) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (23) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (24) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

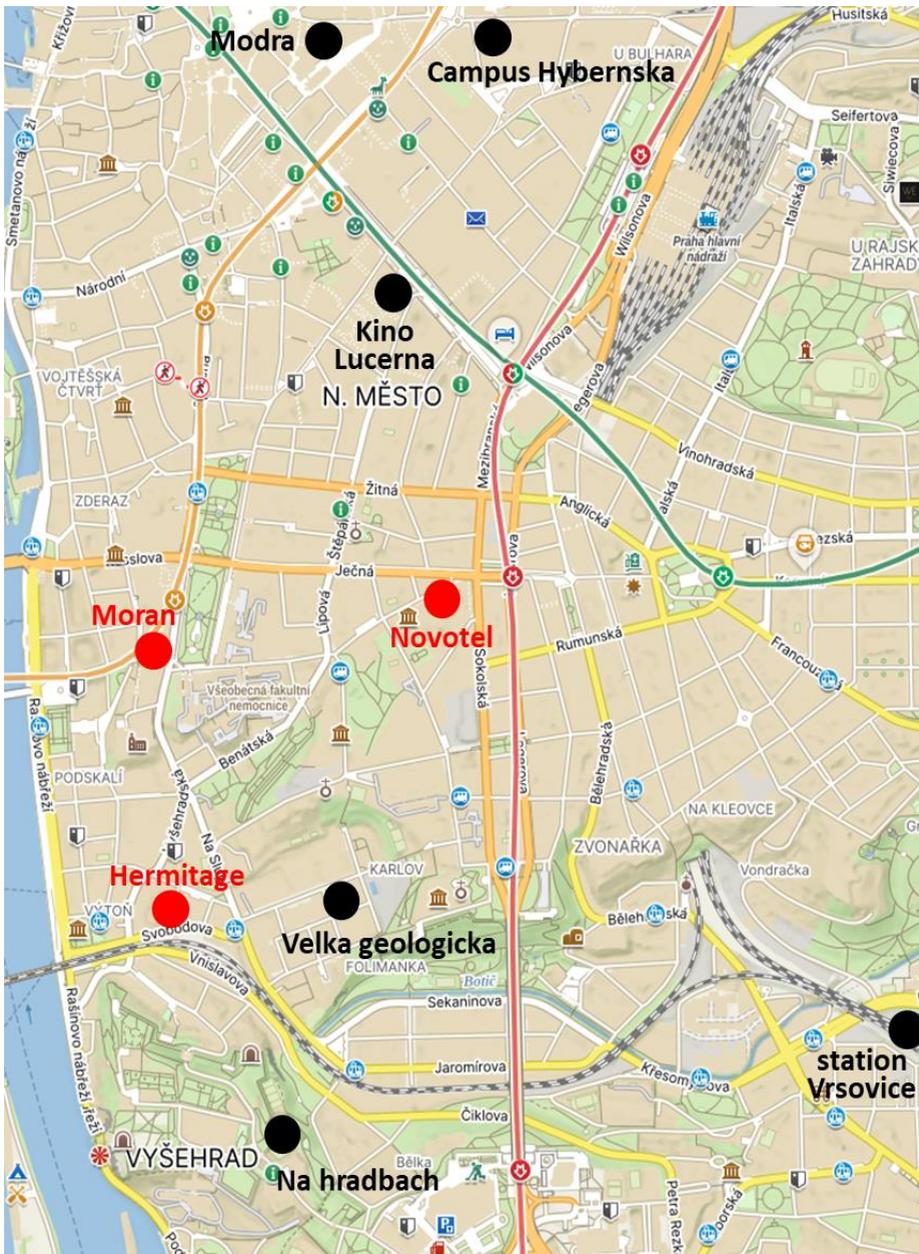
Hut (25) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (26) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

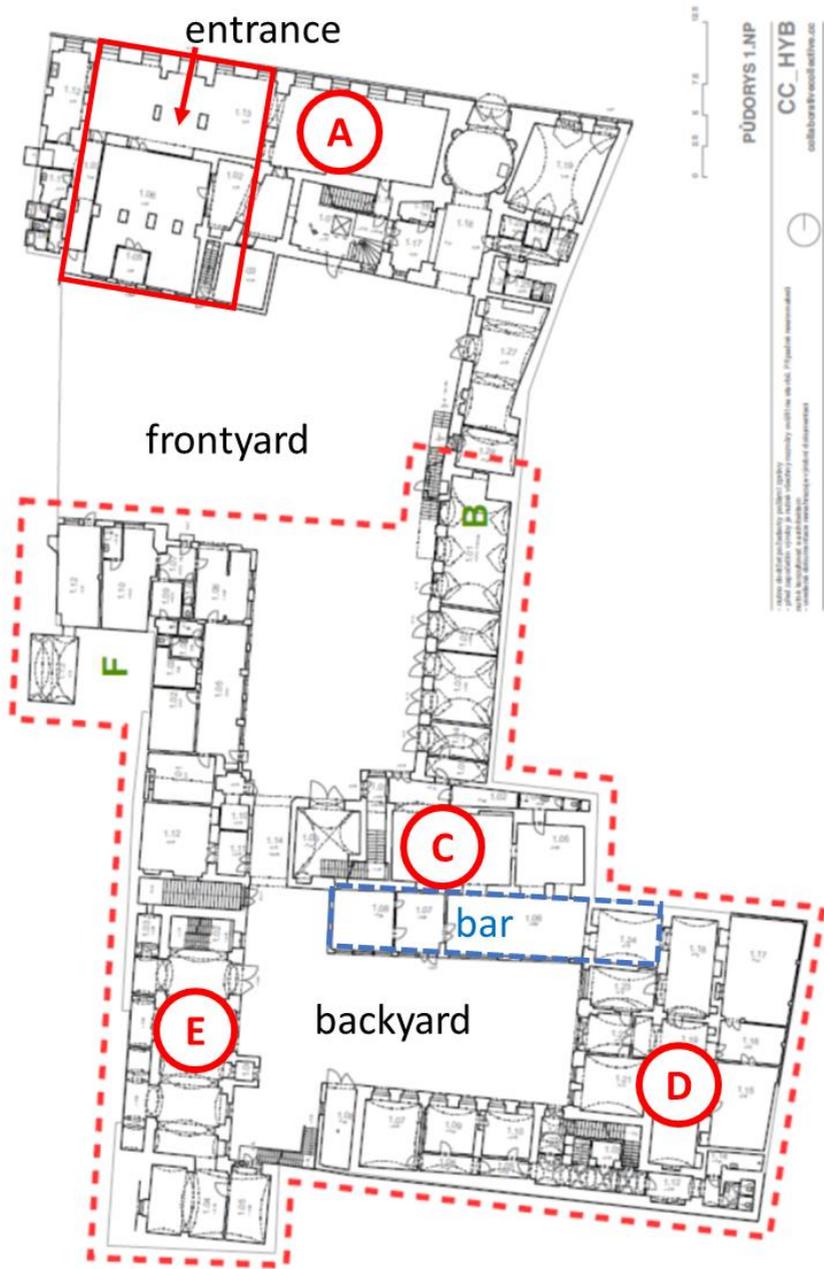
Hut (27) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

Hut (28) — Game of charades: who, who let the show(wol)man out *(for groups, competitive)*

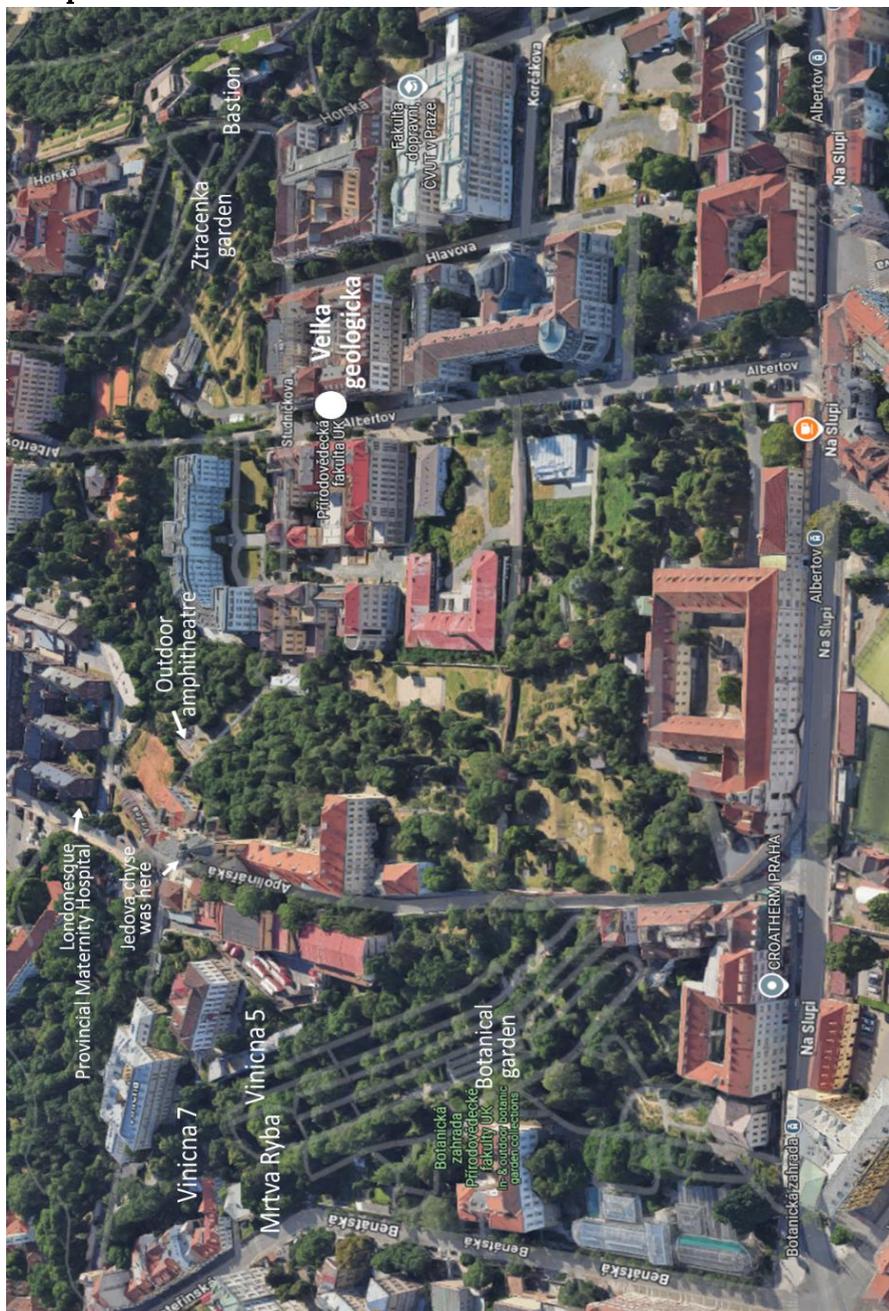
# Essential maps



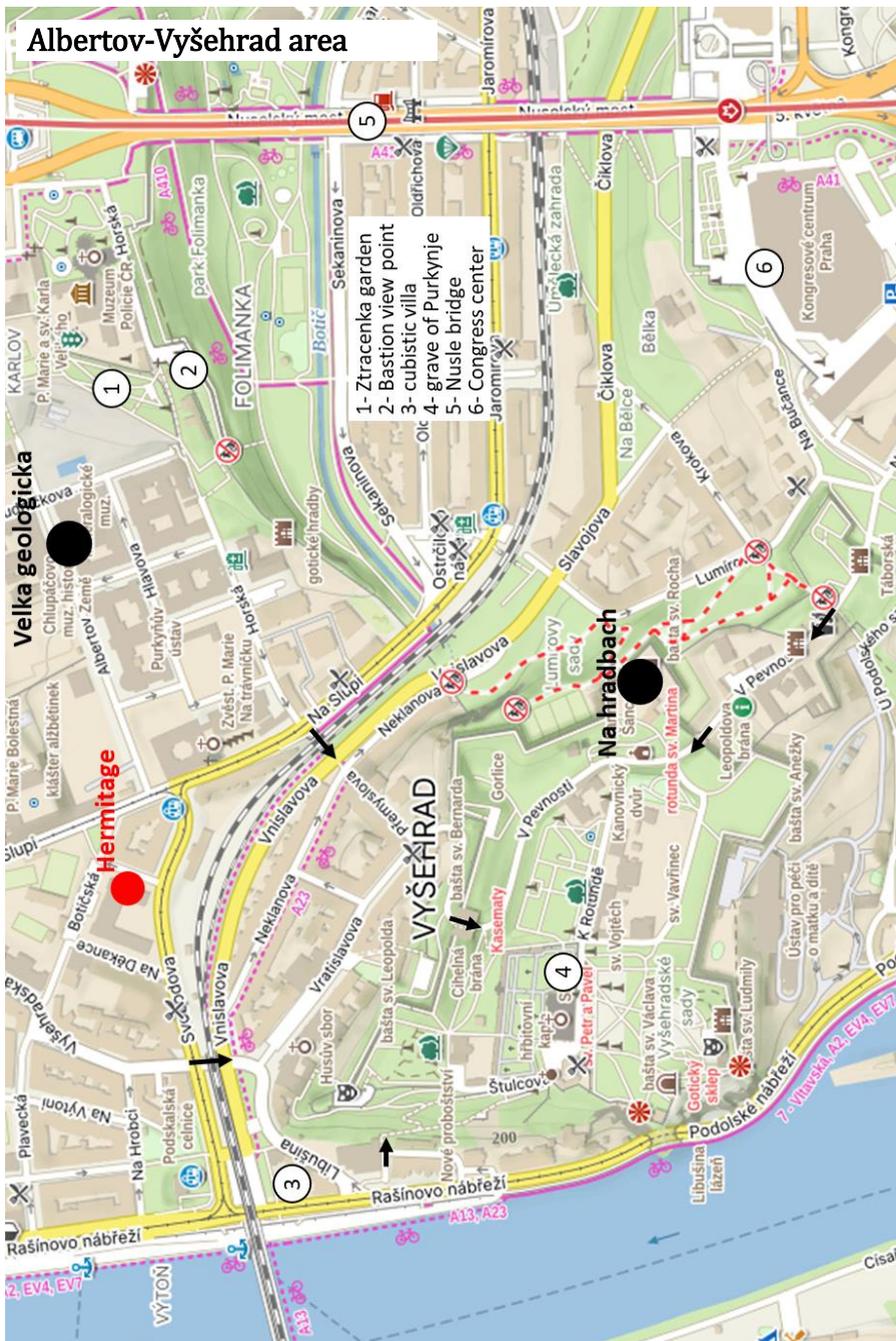
# Campus Hybernaska plan

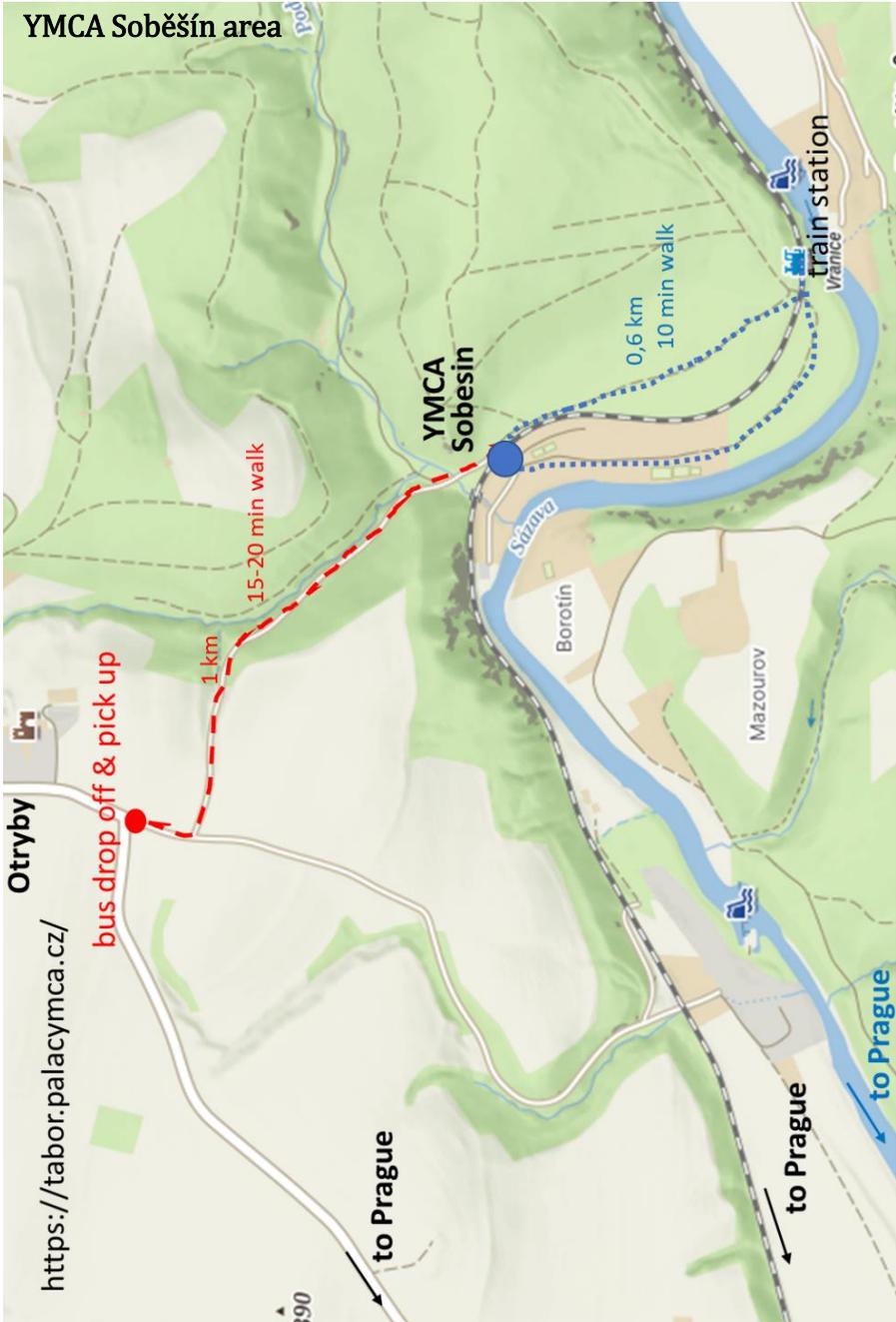


# Campus Albertov area



# Albertov-Vyšehrad area







# Czech & Prague Essentials

## Czechia, Czech & Czechs

The simplest way to accept Czechia is think it's a kind of a hobbiton placed in the Central Europe, which is occupied by hobbits speaking an incomprehensible language, loving beer, socializing in pubs, and mainly caring for themselves. Armies were marching for centuries across this region in every direction while locals were trying to live through wars and other disasters, some of which they caused themselves (e.g. Hussite wars & communist takeover). Czechs are cynical, sarcastic, non-religious, often pissed off and complaining while conservative in many ways. Best are left alone. With a few beers, they melt and become friendly unless you try to educate them and criticize their attitude to whatever. When drunk, they become melancholic rather than aggressive. The language is essentially incomprehensible to non-Slavic speakers and its grammar is horribly complicated. Give up. It will be well appreciated if you would be able to say please and thank you.

*Dobrý den.* Hello.

*Děkuji.* Thank you.

*Prosím* Please

*Jedno pivo.* One beer.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency (any) 112

Police 158

Paramedic 155

## Public transport in Prague

A physical ticket for a public transport ride in Prague must be time-stamped upon the first entry into the transport system (tram, entrance to metro). Tickets can be purchased at special booths (airport), newspaper shops, entrances to metro or in some trams and buses. Tickets can be 30 min, 90 min, 1 day & 3 day. Electronic tickets can be purchased via SMS or via app called **litacka**. Always have a ticket, controls are relatively frequent and do not care about confused tourists.

general info



litacka app



connection search



## Czech Currency – CZK = Czech crown

Czechia does not use Euro although some shops in Prague may accept it. 1 Euro = cca 25CZK. The simplest way to get Czech currency is from ATMs of one of the main banks. Whenever you try to get Czech cash elsewhere, you risk of being ripped off. **Never exchange money on the street.** Never use the exchange point booths along the tourist routes. Beware of ATM or exchange machines at the airport or along the major tourist routes, they have set extra fees or bad exchange rates.

Czechia was hit the last few years with inflation, so nowadays you rarely get a beer under 50CZK, a main course in a restaurant is usually between 250–400. Paying with the 2000 CZK banknote may be problematic at smaller shops. The 5000 CZK banknote is rarely seen.



## Tipping at restaurants

There are no specific rules for tipping at restaurants. If you liked the service, some tip is expected. For a single beer or a coffee, rounding up to the nearest ten is OK but often people pay exactly. For a bill of several hundreds of CZK, rounding up to the nearest fifty or hundred is common. For a dinner of a few people a tip up to 200 CZK is a nice tip.

## Prague Locations



### **Kino Lucerna in Palác Lucerna (Vodičkova 704/36)**

The first meeting venue is the Kino Lucerna in the Lucerna Palace (Czech: Palác Lucerna). The Lucerna Palace is an entertainment and shopping complex at the Wenceslas Square.

The building complex was constructed between 1907 and 1921, based on a design by Stanislav Bechyně. The work was carried out by Vácslav Havel (grandfather of the former Czech President Václav Havel). At the time, it was one of the first reinforced concrete buildings in Prague. The edifice bears



significant features of the waning Art Nouveau style and the emerging Modernism. In addition to its Great Hall, the complex also houses the Marble Hall, the Lucerna Music Bar, the Kino Lucerna movie theatre (the first meeting venue), a café, and a prominent pedestrian walkway, or "passage", connecting Štěpánská to Vodičkova street. Lucerna is one of twenty-six buildings in Prague with a functional paternoster lift. In 2017, it was named a national cultural monument.

From its inauguration until the present day, Lucerna has been an important cultural and social center of the national capital, both in the former Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, hosting concerts, balls, conferences, fashion shows, and sporting events. Over time, some of the most prominent



local and international artists have performed at the venue. After the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Lucerna Palace was returned in restitution to the Havel family and is now owned by Václav Havel's widow, Dagmar Havlová.

### **Kino Lucerna**

Kino Lucerna will be the venue for the meeting registration and first meeting session. The cinema was open on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1909. It was the first cinema in Prague to play sound films (1929). It is the oldest still functional cinema in the Czech Republic.

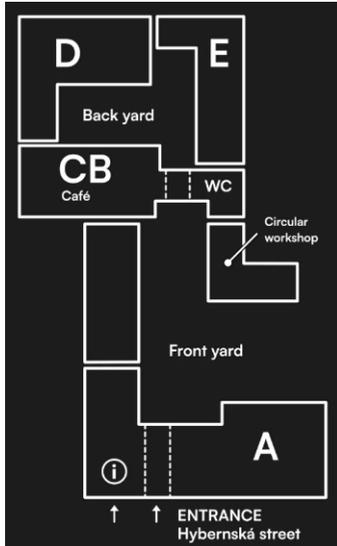


## Campus Hybernská (Hybernská 998/4)

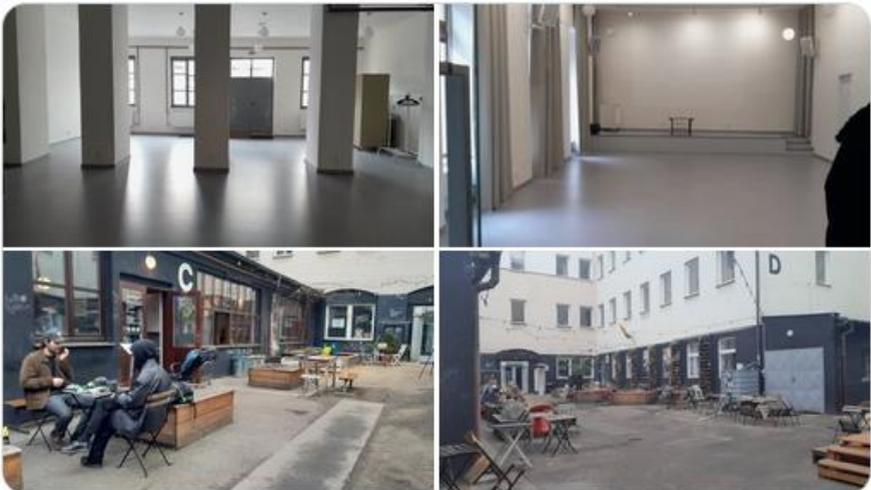
The second Day 1 session will take place in Hybernská Campus, which is a joint project of the Prague City Hall and Charles University since 2015. It was designed to create a center for cultural innovation, science, and education. But it's earlier history is darker.

Immediately after the communist coup in 1948, the building was seized by the security forces. The protocols of the secret police (StB) do not give any local information about the interrogations, so anything could have happened here.

Since 1964, the building complex has housed the support organizations of the Ministry of the Interior. The entire of Hybernská Street



was an important site for the regime. Period photographs of the complex interiors are rare as photography was not allowed here. The metal handrails on the first floor of the front wing were probably used to handcuff people waiting for interrogation. They are preserved in the passageway. A telephone switchboard is preserved in the front wing, the cables were connected directly to Bartolomějská, the StB operations center where all the information was gathered. The soundproofed room (perhaps a bug-proof room) is preserved on the first floor of the rear wing.



## Charles University historic campus (Ovocný trh 560/5)



The first session of Day 2 will take place in the **Modrá (blue) Auditorium** in the old campus of the Charles university. The university was founded in 1348 during the rule of Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. His university became the first *Studium generale* north of the Alps. It had four faculties: theology, liberal arts, law, and medicine.

Left to the main entrance below Rector's office is *Karolinum*, the oldest and most sacred complex of university buildings belonging to the university since 1383. After extensive renovations in 20<sup>th</sup>, the *Karolinum* complex serves for ceremonies, exhibitions and various meetings. Our auditorium is in the Congress Center on the other side.





To get to the Blue Auditorium (**Modrá posluchárna**), enter the complex through the main entrance. At the reception, turn right and exit the building in the back of the corridor. You will reach a small atrium where the entrance to the Congress Center is in a building behind a tree (it is the only large tree in the old campus). Use a glass door to a former carriage way. Once you enter the building, take the stairs on the right to the second floor to the Modrá Auditorium. For coffee break, return to the passage on the ground floor. If you get lost (everyone gets lost there now and then, visitors, students, lecturers ...), ask the first random person for directions to “Modrá”, maybe you will be lucky.



## Albertov Campus (Velká geologická auditorium)



The Albertov area hosts science and engineering buildings from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The construction of this campus quarter during 1901-1904 was one of significant interventions shaping Prague's New Town. The area was developed into a mono-functional relatively closed campus modeled after some European and American campuses.

The Faculty of Science of the Charles University is relatively new. The natural sciences were originally taught at the Faculty of Arts. In 1882, the university divided into Czech and German parts. It led to the emancipation of Czech science and to the establishment of the Faculty of Science in 1920. The often commemorated Einstein's professorship in Prague in 1911-1912 actually took place at the German part then located above Albertov in Vinicna 7 (QR →).



The history of the Faculty of Science is intertwined with modern Czech history. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1939 all Czech universities were closed and student leaders were arrested and deported to concentration camps. Many employees and students of the faculty became the victims of persecution during 1939-1945. The faculty reopened on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945.

The 1948 communist coup led to gradual submission of science & education to the Soviet model and communist ideology. For example, Lysenko's nonsense (QR →) was imposed onto the developing field of modern genetics & molecular biology. Two waves of political vetting took place. The first at the beginning of 1950s was followed by the second one 1969-1971 during the so-called normalization after the 1968 invasion by Warsaw pact armies. Many were forced to leave the faculty. The Velvet Revolution (1989) brought the change. Notably, the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1989 demonstration, which triggered the end of the communist era began at Albertov right in front of the conference venue.





*When if not now? Who if not us?* stands on a plaque commemorating the place where started a peaceful student's demonstration, which ended up with people being beaten up by police at Národní třída.

This plaque is on the Albertov 6 building, which will be the Day 2 afternoon venue. It is the headquarters of the Faculty of Science and hosts geology & geography sections (biology subjects are located nearby in Viničná - yup, that place where Einstein once was- and Benátská streets). Benátská hosts botany, Viničná everything else.

The main lecture hall in the Albertov 6 building is called **Velká geologická**, which means "Large geological" (auditorium) and it has been recently restored to its original glory while modern technology has been integrated into the room as well. The pews will remind everyone of the hardship of science hundred years ago :-)



## Vyšehrad (restaurant Na hradbách)

Vyšehrad is connected with many legends, including Princess Libuše having a vision of Prague and its fame, the legend of Women's War (failed uprising against the rule of men), the legend of Bivoj (hunting a wild boar barehanded) or Horymír (escaping imprisonment by jumping with his beloved horse "Šemík" into Vltava river from the Vyšehrad cliff). These legends are not supported by historical resources though.



During the reign of Boleslav II, a castle stood here with a denarius coin mint. Vyšehrad experienced the greatest fame during the 11th century, when it became the seat of the first Bohemian king Vratislav I, the successors of whom ruled from Vyšehrad until 1140. The original wooden castle was rebuilt to a stone one with new churches and Vyšehrad chapter was established, yet none of that changed its inferior position towards the Prague Castle.

From the second half of the 12th century, Vyšehrad's significance dropped. Charles IV partially renewed it out of respect for previous Přemyslid house rulers. His Coronation regulations for the Bohemian kings included the obligation to carry out a pilgrimage to Vyšehrad on the eve of the coronation, where the king was shown bast shoes and a satchel of the legendary Přemysl the Ploughman. Charles IV was the first to carry out this pilgrimage on the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1347.



After the Hussite victory over Sigismund in the Battle of Vyšehrad in 1420, almost all the buildings were destroyed. Since 1650, Ferdinand III began to build the Vyšehrad citadel, a Baroque fortress made up of high brick ramparts shaped as a pentagram with six corner bastions..

The Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul was established in 1070 and has been rebuild multiple times, the current appearance is a neo-Gothic reconstruction from 1887–1903. Next to it is a cemetery, which is the final resting place of many famous Czechs, including writer Karel Čapek, composer Antonín Dvořák, or naturalist Jan E. Purkyně [↗](#).



Our venue for the end of the Day 2 is the restaurant Na hradbách, it is located at the south east bastion near the south entrance to the fortress.



# Prague Snippets

## Sv. Václav / St. Wenzel

Wenceslaus I (Czech: Václav ['va:tslaf], c. 907 – 28 September 935), Wenceslas I or Václav the Good was the Duke of Bohemia from 921 until his death.

According to the legend, he was assassinated by his younger brother, Boleslaus the Cruel. His martyrdom and the popularity of several biographies gave rise to a reputation for heroic virtue that resulted in his sainthood.



He was posthumously declared to be a king and patron saint of the Czech state. He is the subject of the well-known "Good King Wenceslas", a carol for Saint Stephen's Day, which was brought up in The Big Bang Theory episode by Sheldon Cooper (QR).

At the top of the Wenceslas square stands a monumental statue sculpted by Josef Václav Myslbek and erected early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It bears an inscription "Saint Wenceslas, duke of the Czech land, prince of ours, do not let perish us nor our descendants".

Near the entrance to Kino Lucerna<sup>↗</sup>, where the meeting will open, is a modern statue by David Černý. It was originally placed at the lower part of the Wenceslas square to reflect the state of Czech Republic – it does not work but everyone behaves as if nothing happens.

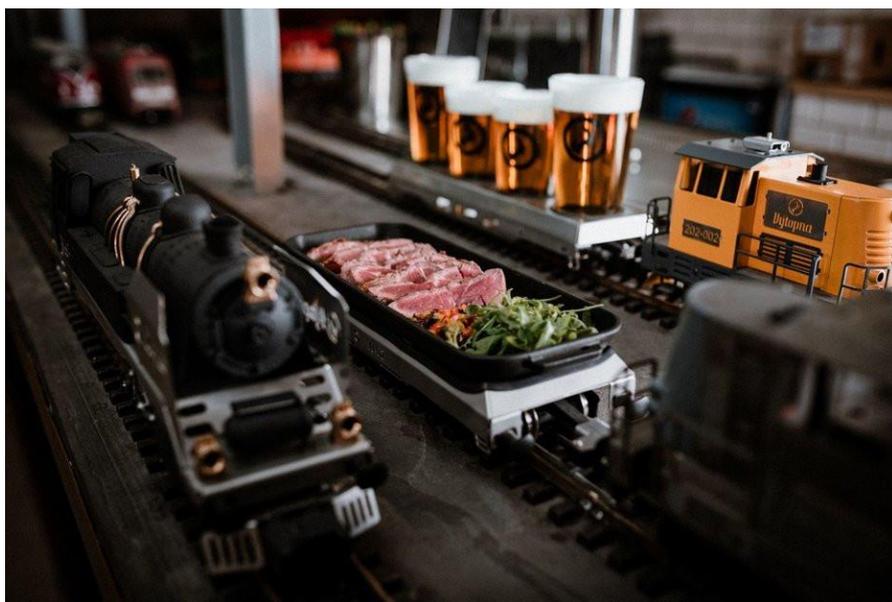


## Výtopna – a model train restaurant (Václavské nám. 560)



Výtopna is a restaurant at the upper part of the Wenceslas Square where your drinks and food arrive on a model train. That's it. It serves Pilsner beer and simple Czech food. It's not far from the Kino Lucerna ↗ where we start.

It's a must if you like trains. Tracks run around the whole pub, best are tables with their own terminus. It may be difficult to get a place there, it's better to book it ahead. Best is to come with up to seven friends and get one of those tables with own terminus where the train comes, you unload it and then the train leaves. Be fast and do not ever touch a moving train.



## Paternoster

Paternoster is a historical type of passenger elevator, which consists of a chain of open compartments (each usually designed for one or two people) that move slowly in a loop up and down inside a building without stopping.

There are several paternoster lifts still operating in Prague and one is in the Lucerna palace [↗](#). When entering Kino Lucerna through its main stairs, there is a glass door opposite of entrance to the café under the cinema. Behind this door is an operating paternoster, which leads to terraces on top of the Lucerna palace. While the terraces are under repair, the paternoster may still be accessible for trying it. With a bit of adrenaline one can even make the full loop!



## Prašná brána (Powder Tower)

The Powder Tower is one of the original 13 city gates in the Old Town separating it from the New Town. This Gothic tower also marks the beginning of the “Royal Road”, which kings took from here through the Old Town Square and the Charles Bridge to the Prague Castle.

This monumental tower stands between Campus Hybernська [↗](#) and Karolinum [↗](#), so it’s quite likely that you will walk by it at some point.



## Orloj - Prague Astronomical Clock (Old Town Square)



The area around this marvel of medieval engineering is the biggest tourist trap among all places described here. However, it is mentioned because it is near the Day 2 morning venue, so people may consider walking by while moving to the next venue.

Thorough information about the “Orloj” incl. its organization can be found elsewhere (check the QR code). Seeing it moving is a highlight of Prague visits but it gets really crowded during the day,

especially during each full hour show (8AM till 11PM). They say it is the oldest functional astronomical clock in the world. The original clock was first mentioned in 1410, other parts are younger (the calendar dial was added around 1490). The clock actually stopped working and was repaired many times.



The Orloj suffered heavy damage during the Prague uprising on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 1945, when the Nazis fired on the south-west side of the Old Town Square from armoured vehicles in an unsuccessful attempt to destroy one of the centers of the uprising. The hall and nearby buildings burned, along with the wooden sculptures on the clock and the calendar dial face. After significant effort, the machinery was repaired, the wooden Apostles restored, and the Orloj started working again in 1948.

The 2018 reconstruction included making a copy of the calendar dial. A hilarious affair started when it turned out that the recruited artist took too much freedom and changed some of the figures and some got even faces of living people. The city now has to make another copy to fix it.



Nerds may appreciate the QR code on the left, which leads to a simulator of the astronomical clock, which can be set to a specific moment in the past or the future to show the position of dials of the astronomical clock at that moment.

## Bethlehem Chapel (Betlémsklé náměstí 4)



The Bethlehem Chapel is named for the Innocents massacred in Bethlehem by Herod the Great. It is a medieval religious building in the Old Town, notable for its connection with the origins of the Bohemian Reformation and the Jan Hus, church reformer, theologian, rector at the Charles University in Prague (1409-1410), and philosopher, who was burned at stake in Konstanz in 1415. After the execution, his followers (known as Hussites thereafter) refused to elect another Catholic king and defeated five papal crusades between 1420 and 1431 in what became known as the Hussite Wars.

The original chapel was partly demolished in 1786. Under the Czechoslovak communist regime, the building was restored by the government to its state at the time of Hus as the communists saw a parallel between the Hussite revolutionary movement and proletarian revolutions. While newly rebuilt, most of the chapel's exterior walls and a small portion of the pulpit actually date back to the medieval chapel. Nowadays it is being used for various ceremonies





## Tram T3

The T3 is a legendary tramcar produced by ČKD Tatra factory since 1960. ~14 000 cars were built and it became the most dominant tramcar model in Eastern Bloc countries (except for Poland and Hungary) and it is one of the most widespread tram cars in the world. >1000 cars were delivered to Prague and by 2011 it still had the best reliability of the Prague tram system fleet. Its rounded body, a lot of standing space, and laminate seats still serve well around the city.



## Dancing House (Rašínovo nábřeží 80)

The Dancing House is one of a few modern architecture hallmarks of Prague. The house is built in the deconstructivist style ("new-baroque" to the designers). It stands on a site of an apartment building destroyed during the U.S. bombing of Prague in 1945. The plot and structure lay decrepit until 1960, when the area was cleared. Since 1986, Vlado Milunić, a respected Czechoslovak architect, conceived an idea for a project at the place and discussed it with his neighbor, the then little-known dissident Havel who later became president.



Sponsored by the Dutch insurance company Nationale-Nederlanden (ING Bank), Milunić became the lead designer and invited the Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry to develop Milunić's original idea of a building consisting of two parts, static and dynamic, which were to symbolize the transition of Czechoslovakia from a communist regime to a parliamentary democracy. The "dancing" shape is supported by 99 concrete panels, each a different shape and dimension. Nearby is the National Memorial place "The Crypt" [↗](#).



## The Crypt (Resslova 9)

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1942, Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš , operatives sent by the Czechoslovak government-in-exile attempted to execute Reinhard Heydrich, a principal architect of the Holocaust, the commander of the Reich Security Main Office, and the governor of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Heydrich was wounded and died of his injuries on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The operation Anthropoid is the only verified government-sponsored elimination of a senior Nazi leader during the war. The reprisal was bloody though. Estimated 5,000 people were murdered, villages Lidice and Ležáky were burned down, their inhabitants executed (incl. all men) or sent to concentration camps; a few survived the war.



Nazis were unable to locate the attackers until one of the paratroopers from another team turned himself in and gave up the local contacts for the bounty of one million Reichsmarks. Once the hiding in the church of Sts Cyril and Methodius was discovered, 750 Waffen-SS troops attacked it but failed to capture the paratroopers alive. When called to surrender, the paratroopers fired back and shouted: "We are Czechs! We will never surrender, you hear? Never!" The paratroopers armed only with pistols resisted for seven hours repeated attacks, attempts to force them out with tear gas and flooding the crypt. Running out of ammo, the crypt defenders used the last bullet for themselves on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

[The Crypt museum is open 9AM-5PM, free admission.](#)



## Faust House (Karlovo náměstí 40)

The Faust House at Charles Square is a mysterious Baroque mansion from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. According to the legend, an alchemist and astrologer Dr. Faust traded with Mephistopheles his soul for unlimited knowledge & worldly pleasures but it didn't end well for him. While Dr. Faust probably never visited Prague, several other notable figures lived in the house. One was astrologer Jakub Krucinek whose younger son murdered the elder brother due to the thought there was a treasure hidden within the house. Another was Jan Kopp, an amateur alchemist and a personal doctor of Ferdinand I. The most famous resident was Edward Kelley, the alchemist of Emperor Rudolf II whose rise and fall truly had Faustian proportions. It is said he had a laboratory in the house causing several explosions, some of them causing holes in the house ceiling. These experiments helped the growing myth of the house. Other notable residents include Ferdinand Antonin Mladota of Solopysky, who conducted chemical experiments in the house and its basement, and Karl Jaenig, a man with a fetish for death who painted the walls with funeral texts, slept in a coffin and had a part of a gallows.

The house is closed to the public. However there is a café, the club of the 1st Medical Faculty, which is available for the meeting participants to stop there and have a coffee (the person running the place is aware that some meeting participants may stop by). Good times are either before we start on 10<sup>th</sup> or during the lunch break on 11<sup>th</sup>.





## Dead Fish (Benátská 4)

**Mrtvá ryba** (Dead Fish) is a legendary club of the Faculty of Science. Like the CSHL bar except beer is always available. It was a wild place in 90's. The faculty actually tried to shut it down a few times. One of the closing parties was dispersed by police. But the place always recovered and it still lives. What is dead may never die, but rises again harder and stronger. Dead Fish can't be killed.

In 90's, one could have an open account at the bar and pay it monthly. From those times comes the repurposed quote, which may still be hanging above the bar "Never was so much owed by so many to so few". Many spent a large part of their studies here, some never finished.

While the capacity is limited, attendees are welcome to check if it's not too crowded and have a beer there. Either before the meeting or on Day 2 when going to Velká geologická ↗ or before going to Vyšehrad ↗.



## The Toxic Shack (Jedová chýše, Apolinářská 445-6)

A place, which disappeared. Located on a hill above the Velká geologická [↗](#), the "Toxic shack" was possibly Prague's longest running pub (since 13<sup>th</sup> century) with the worst imaginable reputation. A place of brawls, murders & many macabre stories was demolished in 1930.



## Ztracenka garden

Ztracenka is an escape place on a hill next to the Velká geologická auditorium [↗](#). A quiet place with nice views of Prague right under the Bastion [↗](#). When carefully looking at images below, it turns out that the church on the left image is the same as the one in the lower photos above, and the church on the right image is Vyšehrad [↗](#), the place of the last session of the second day.



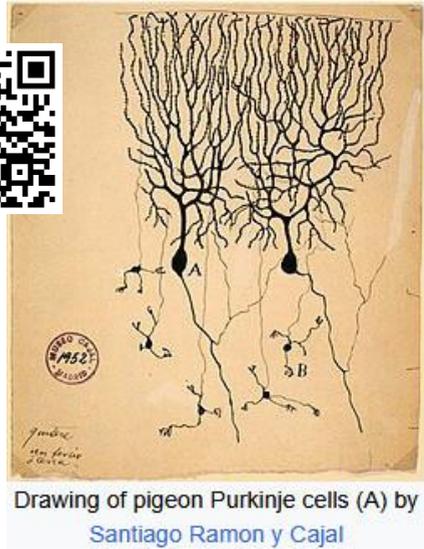
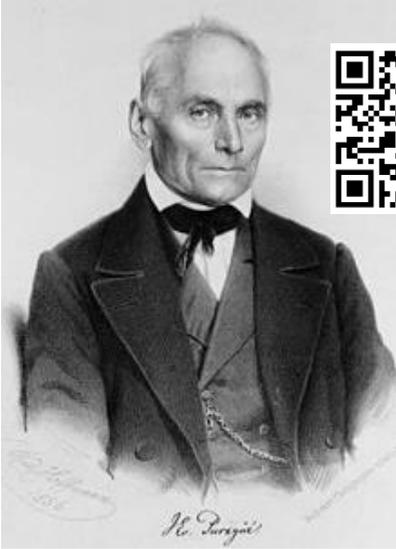
## Bastion



Bastion is a former part of old Prague city fortification, which was, together with Vyšehrad [↗](#), guarding access to the city from the south. It is a nice chill out place with views located just above the autorium Velká geologická [↗](#) and the Ztracenka garden [↗](#). Suitable for those who want to relax and have a talk before dinner in the Vyšehrad fortress (its basilica is seen across the valley). There is a small café on it and it's possible to descend left or right (back to the Ztracenka garden). Or walk up and make a roundtrip over the Nuselský bridge and around the Prague Congress Center (nice views).



## Purkynje cells & his grave



Drawing of pigeon Purkinje cells (A) by Santiago Ramon y Cajal

At Vyšehrad [↗](#) is the grave of Jan Evangelista Purkyně, a famous 19<sup>th</sup> century scientist, immortalized via Purkynje cells in the cerebellum. He was also one of the fathers of the cell theory. His grave is at the back of the Vyšehrad basilica, a short walk from the dinner place Na hradbách.



## Czech Cubism

On Day 2 before the morning session or after it, literally around the corner, is the finest example of the Czech cubism. The café opens @8AM.



More examples of the Czech Cubism can be found when moving from Velká geologická ↗ to the fortress Vyšehrad ↗. There are several fine cubistic houses under the fortress in Neklanova and at the river side.



## Metronome (the former Stalin Monument)

Once Czech communists seized power in 1948, they decided to lick Stalin's balls harder than anyone else and commissioned building the largest statue of Stalin ever. The 15.5m high granite monster glooming over Prague was built on an elevated site on Letná Hill. Funny enough, it took more than five years to build it, so the statue was unveiled on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1955, two years after Stalin's death. The poor author, Otakar Švec, killed himself after unveiling. With the Stalinist era over, the statue was taken down on Kremlin's request with 800kg of dynamite in 1962.



... but the story of the place does not end with blowing up Stalin!

In early 1990s, a bomb shelter beneath the statue's plinth became the home of Prague's first rock club. Then, in October 1990, a pirate radio station Radio Stalin started to operate on 92,6 MHz from the same underground shelter. It was shut down by authorities after a few days and its equipment was confiscated. However, it gained strong public attention and support. The station became legalized, got its equipment back, and began officially broadcasting under the name Radio 1 on 91,9 MHz in the spring of 1991. It was the first private independent radio station in then Czechoslovakia and it still exists today!



Since 1991, the marble pedestal has been used as the base of a giant kinetic sculpture of a metronome. It symbolizes inexorable passage of time and a cautionary reminder of the past. Symptomatically, intended as a temporary installation, it's in the place until today.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a guerilla artist group Ztohoven lit up the old eternal fires to commemorate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of self-immolation of Jan Zajic, who protested against censorship and so-called normalization process a year after invasion and occupation of the country by Soviet troops and on the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the 1948 communist takeover.



EUR (€)

# Space Fluid

About

Perfumes

News

Space Fluid



*Maybe you sense some original scent during the meeting.*

*Maybe it is one of these perfumes ...*

# The Train Element

## The engine – Model 751 (Zamračená or Bardotka)



The 751 series locomotive is a diesel–electric locomotive with the arrangement of the Bo' Bo' travel. It has been nicknamed Zamračená (frowning lady) or Bardotka (a tribute to actor's chest). It is one of the most successful locomotives produced in the Prague locomotive ČKD factory. 230 of them were produced from 1964 to 1971. The locomotive weights 75 tons, has an electric DC transmission, the maximum permitted speed 100 km/h and the permanent pulling force 120 kN (maximum 220 kN).



## The cars – Bdmtee281

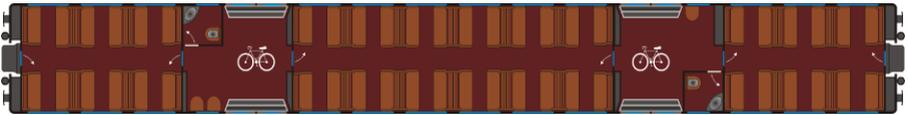
The cars are large second class passenger cars from the Czech Railways fleet. 320 of them were produced by the VEB Waggonbau Bautzen (then Eastern Germany) in the years 1989 – 1990 and became work horses of the public transport in Czechoslovakia (later Czechia).

The cars are non–air–conditioned with a self–supporting body, with a total length of 26 400 mm, with a floor height of 1 250 mm above the top of the rail

and the maximum allowed speed of 160 km/h. All fixed seats are organized into two-seat benches in arrangement 2 + 2 with total of 96 fixed seats per car.

Owing it to the cold war era, these cars were actually developed to allow for quick conversion to ambulances in the event of war: all seats can be easily dismantled and removed, creating bed partitions with up to 48 beds, operating rooms or a medical room.

Because of their cramped interior and East German origin, passengers often refer to these cars as "Honecker's revenge" or abbreviated "Honeckery" (Honeckers). To ease up on the Eastern bloc experience, four cars were ordered allowing for each car to be a slightly over half full of its full capacity, so people could stretch their legs and avoid the full cramped commuter experience.







romantic names, the scenic railroad became Posázavský Pacific. We will travel on the railroad 212, which was completed in 1903 and recently reconstructed. A video of our ride in the opposite direction is under the QR code above. Our trip will finish in the station Vranice below (its pre-reconstruction will appearance).

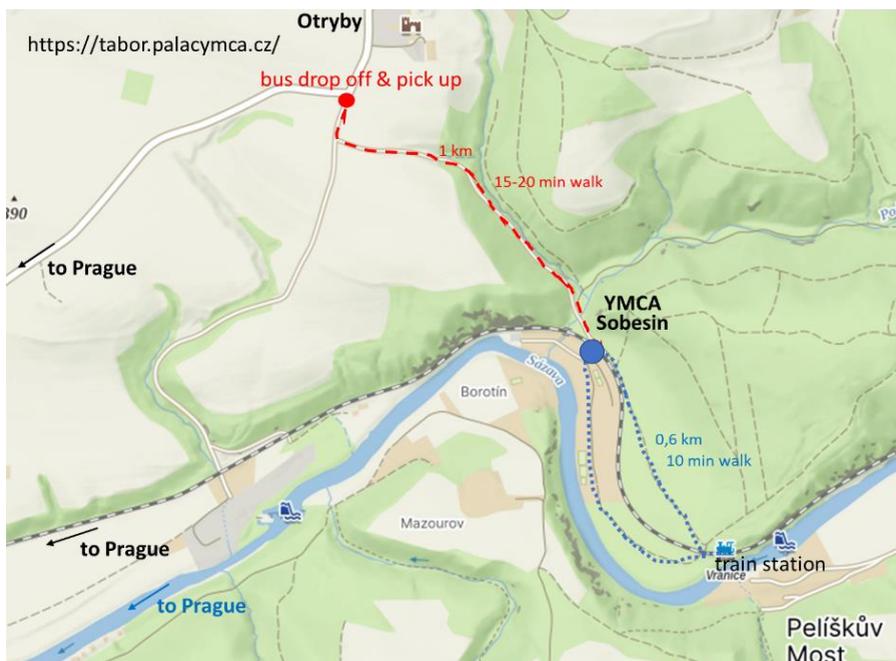


# Woods of Bohemia

Destination point: YMCA camp Soběšín (D1 exit km 41, Č. Šternberk)

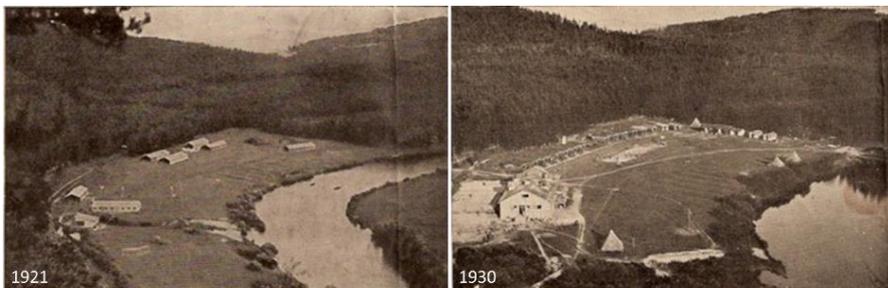


Local map (49.795428, 14.981515):



## YMCA Camp Soběšín (Masaryk's Camp YMCA)

The YMCA campsite in Sázava near Soběšín was established in 1921. The land was donated by count Sternberg to the YMCA, and it very quickly began to do everything possible to make it "The Paradise of the Boys in the Sázava". At first, it was only a tent camp, later came huts.

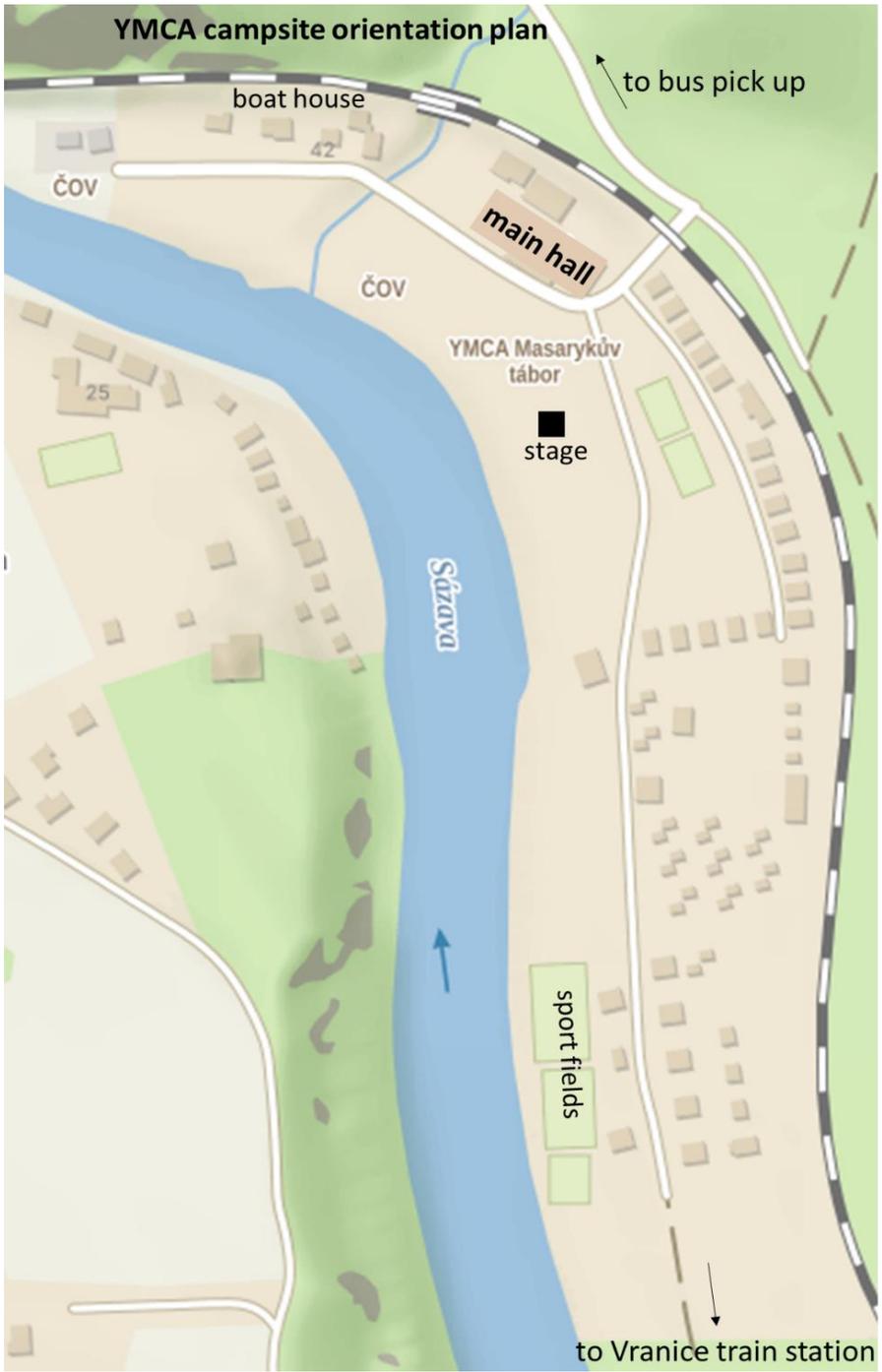


During WWII, the camp was occupied by the Hitler Youth.

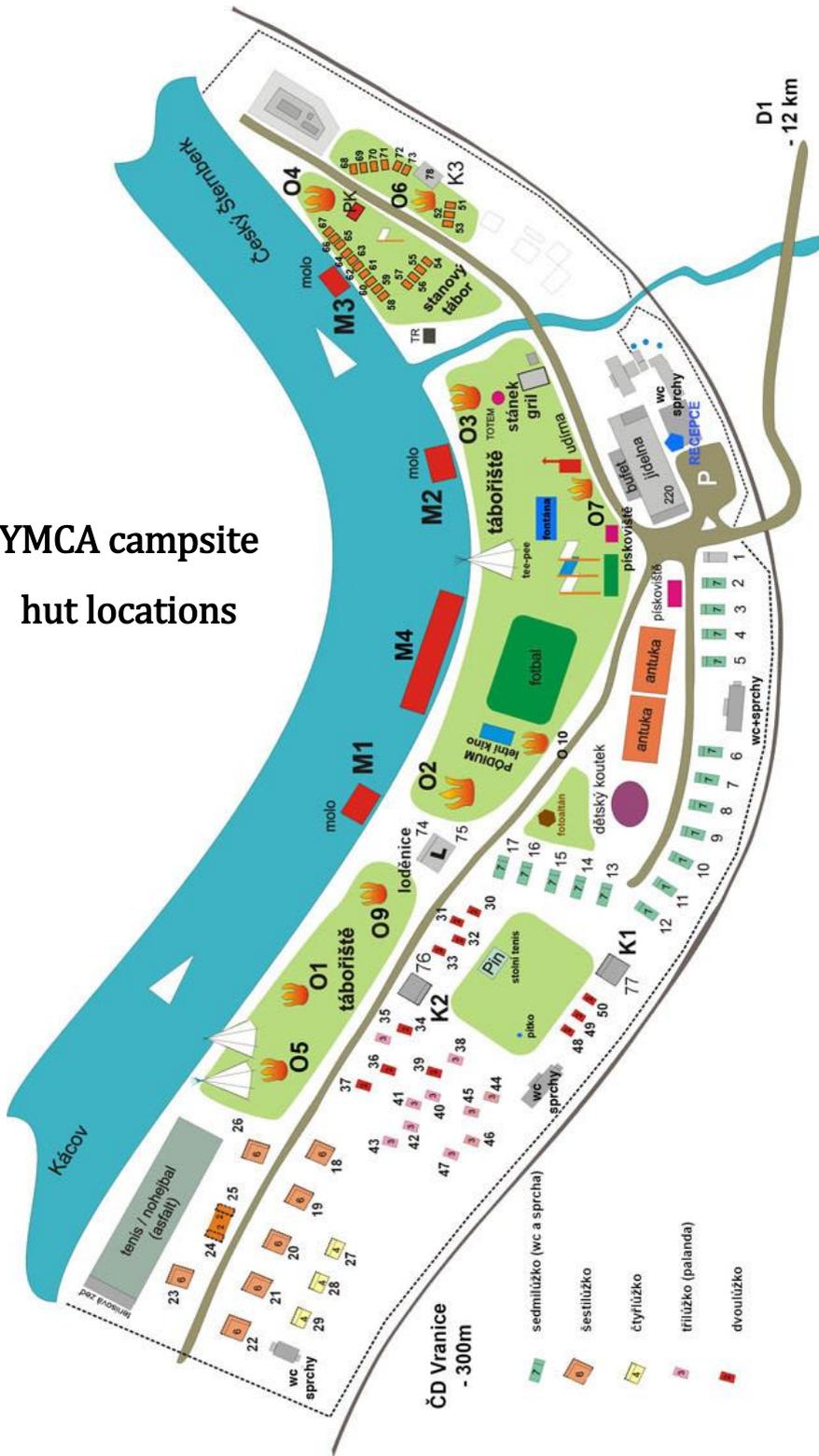
After the war, the YMCA again organized 3 seasons in 1945–47. After the communist coup in February 1948, YMCA was prevented from using it and the camp was run by a state controlled Youth Travel Agency.

After 1989, YMCA returned. Since 1994 as operators and since 2002 as rightful owners, although at the cost of signing an unfavorable contract with the state represented by the Children and Youth Fund (now non-existent). The most important figure associated with the camp is Joe First, the interwar director of the camp, who was a great promoter of then-new sports – volleyball, basketball, archery, softball and others.





# YMCA campsite hut locations



## Josef Šenki & his band

Josef Šenki is a violinist who grew up in a musician family in Prague's Karlín district. He is the grandson of the highly respected musician Milan Šenki alias Koritár who brought young Josef to the world of music, performing with him on the same stage and becoming his leading fan. Josef developed his talent at the International Conservatory in Prague.

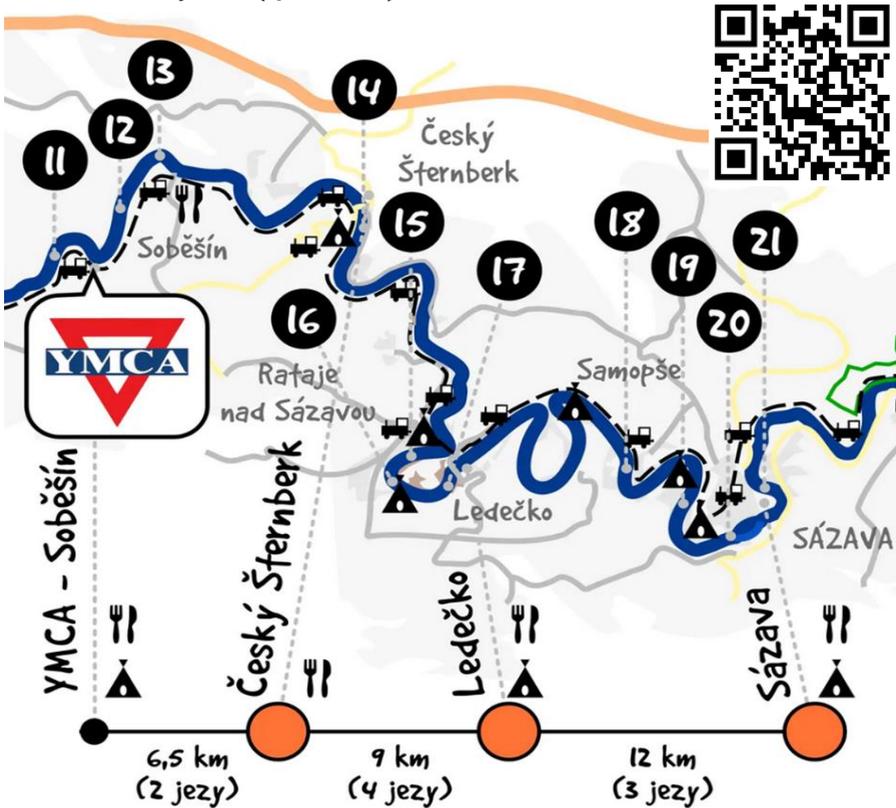
Initially he played folk music, but over time he became interested in other genres including jazz, pop, Latin American music and world music. Thanks to his brilliant technique, ability to improvise and deep feeling for music, Josef is able to transmit emotions and energy to his audience, which makes him successful not only in the Czech Republic but also on the international stage. With the Austrian band DelaDap, where Josef Šenki performed for two years, he toured the world. Josef has been playing played in many groups, including the Lavutari di Praga orchestra mixing folklore with classic music and jazz, Studánka band playing Moravian and Slovak folklore, bands Devles (Gods), Gitans, and others. He also appeared in appeared in several film and TV roles. He will play with his group at the campsite on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 20:00.



## The canoe ride (optional)

If you decided to leave the Woodstock of Biology in a canoe: The rental is via the Samba company (pickup/return contact: +420 771 22 44 22). The canoe one day rental is 590 CZK when pre-paid or 710 CZK (cash) on site. It includes 2 paddles, 2 barrels & 2 vests. They also provide a map. The recommended route is a 6.5 km ride to Český Šternberk, the return is under the castle. It is a pleasant route with two simple weirs, especially when it's warm and dry. After a rain, however, the river can be fast and requiring some skills. If you never rode a canoe, go with someone who did and sit in the front. Respect the river. If you wish, you can go further and return the canoe at some later return point. If you are not skilled or it rained, avoid riding the weir #14, it requires skills.

A bus w. 60 seats booked by us will depart from the Český Šternberk village center at 13:00. Public trains from to Prague depart at 11:46 and 13:45 but the ride takes 2:20. There are other faster connections, which can be found with the IDOS system (QR code →)



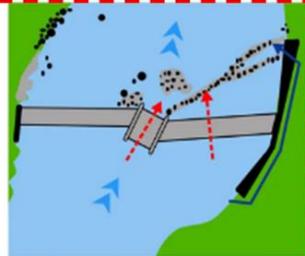
# WEIR SCHEMES

river flow   
 carry   
 ride 

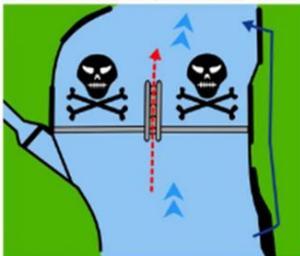
6.5 km route to Šternberk



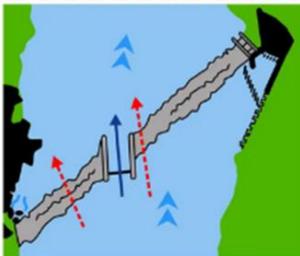
**12** ř.km 31,1  
**Soběšín - Mazourov**  
 ironing in weir, risk of raft damage (does not apply to canoes)



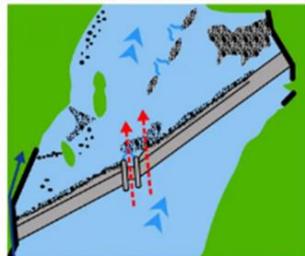
**13** ř.km 79,6  
**Soběšín**



**14** ř.km 75,2  
**Český Šternberk**



**15** ř.km 63,7  
**Račaje**



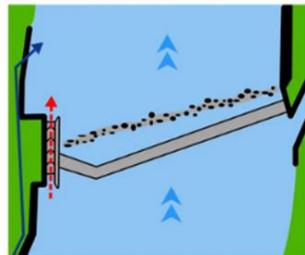
**16** ř.km 67,3  
**Kuchelník**



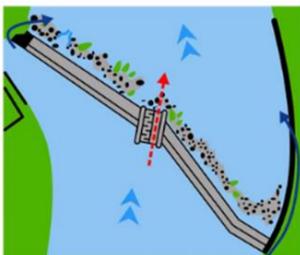
**17** ř.km 66,9  
**Ledečko**



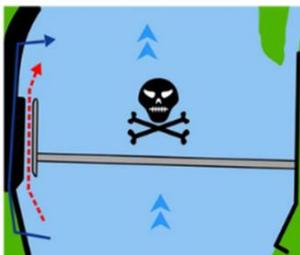
**18** ř.km 60  
**Samopše**  
 ironing in chute, risk of raft damage (does not apply to canoes)



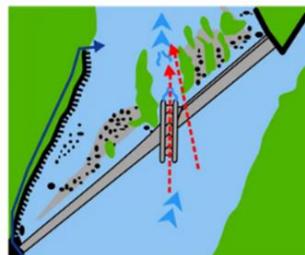
**19** ř.km 57,5  
**Budín**



**20** ř.km 55,3  
**Kavalier**



**21** ř.km 54,3  
**Sázava - Černé Budy**



**22** ř.km 43,3  
**Pyskočely**

## Český Šternberk



The Český Šternberk castle was built ~ 1241 by Zdeslav of Divišov, who named it Sternberg (Šternberk is the Czech spelling) after his coat of arms, an eight-pointed star. He also adopted the territorial surname “ze Sternberga” (of Sternberg). In 1467, the castle was captured. Extensive early Baroque renovations were carried out in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the castle no longer served its original purpose and more care was taken of the comfort of its inhabitants. After the lifestyle changes in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the castle was fitted with electricity, plumbing and central heating. Remarkably, the castle is still held by the same family – the current owner is the 20<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of the founder. More info about the castle under the QR code.

We will go around the castle on the to the camp by train and on the way back by bus. Under the castle is also a recommended canoe return spot. Food and public transportation (bus & train) to Prague is available in the village under the castle.



## Extra Snippets from Bohemia

With a car & time, check **Říp**, a mythical hill where the urfather Czech arrived & decided to stay. Not much on top, an old church, views & beer.



From Říp go to Mělník, from where is this picture ↑. This old town was a dowry of Bohemian queens. Nowadays it's a sleepy regional center where you get some good food & beer. Němý Medvěď is the best place.



# Code of Conduct

Woodstock.Bio2 + Night Science is committed to fostering an open, respectful, and inclusive environment that encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all participants. We ask all attendees to engage in rigorous intellectual discussions while treating one another with respect. All participants—including speakers, attendees, and organizers, are expected to:

- Engage in professional and respectful behavior at all times.
- Avoid any form of harassment, discrimination, or intimidation.
- Support an inclusive environment where diverse perspectives and ideas are welcomed and valued.

## Prohibited Conduct

- Unacceptable behavior includes:
- Harassment of any kind, including verbal, physical, or visual harassment.
- Sexual harassment, including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate conduct.
- Discriminatory remarks or actions.
- Destruction of property, theft, or illegal activity.

## Reporting Concerns

If you experience or witness behavior that violates this Code of Conduct, please promptly report it to a member of the organizing team. You may contact:

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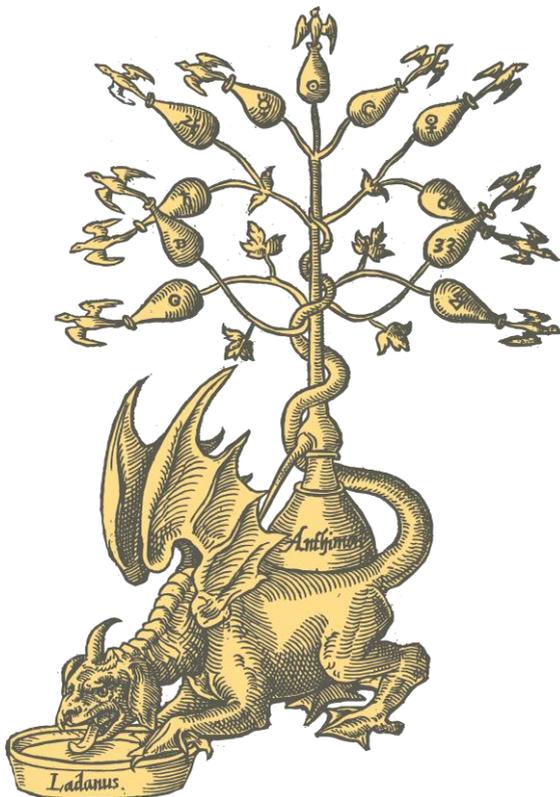
All reports will be handled with discretion. The organizers may take appropriate action, including warning the offender, removing them from the conference without refund, or banning future attendance.

## Research Integrity

We expect all research presented to meet the highest standards of scientific integrity. Fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism will not be tolerated and may lead to removal from the program and further consequences as deemed appropriate by the organizing committee.

## Liability and Safety

All participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, health, and personal safety. Woodstock.Bio2 + Night Science and its organizers are not liable for injury, illness, or property loss incurred during travel or participation. Attendees are encouraged to carry their own travel and health insurance.



## Walk up Songs

QR code for a Playlist of walk up songs (available after presentations).



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> The End <

