

**NATURHISTORISCHES MUSEUM  
DER BÜRGERGEMEINDE BERN**  
MUSÉE D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE  
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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## **16th Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Soqotra**

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the Friends of Soqotra's 16th Conference and Annual General Meeting of the. This year the event will be hosted by the Natural History Museum in Bern from the 27 – 29 October 2017.

The Friends of Soqotra conference and Annual General Meeting presents a great opportunity to meet other members and find out more about the results of the latest scientific research, ongoing projects, and share information about the events and activities that the Friends of Soqotra have been involved in over the last year. Both members and non-members are very welcome to attend and participate in the meetings.

# **Programme**

**Friday 27.10.2017**

### **Location.**

Natural History Museum. Bernastrasse 15. CH-3005 Bern. Switzerland.

### **Early registration.**

**17.00 – 19.00:** Foyer Natural History Museum, entrance area, with a Swiss apéro.

**After 19.00:** Time to stroll through the city, enjoy a nice dinner, etc...

# 16th Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Soqotra

## Programme

**Saturday 28.10.2017**

**Location** Hotel Kreuz Bern, Zeughausgasse 41, 3011 Bern, Switzerland

**09.00 – 09.30** Registration

### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

**09.30 – 09.35** Eike Neubert Welcome and technical details

**09.35 – 09.40** Christian Kropf or Christoph Beer Welcome address on behalf of the NMBE

**09.40 – 09.45** Mohanned Abd Algamil Abdullah Ali Deputy Governor of Soqotra

### **SESSION ONE**

**10.00 – 10.20** Julian Jansen van Rensburg Intergrating Soqotra's cultural heritage into conservation

**10.20 – 10.30** Benjamin Carey Tourism as part of the British Council Project

**10.30 – 10.50** Vladimir Melnik The unknown heritage of Soqotra: review of recent discoveries.

**10.50 – 11.20** **COFFEE BREAK**

### **SESSION TWO**

**11.20 – 11.40** Petr Vahalik Recent and ongoing mapping of Soqotra

**11.40 – 12.00** Martin Rezjek *Dracaena cinnabari* as a nurse plant

**12.00 – 12.20** Uli Joger The Vertebrate faunas of Soqotra and the Macaronesian Archipelagos: a comparison

**12.20 – 14.00** **LUNCH BREAK**

# 16th Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Soqotra

## Programme

**Saturday 28.10.2017**

**Location** Hotel Kreuz Bern, Zeughausgasse 41, 3011 Bern, Switzerland

### SESSION THREE

<b>14.00 – 14.20</b>	Uwe Zajonz	Status brief UNEP-GEF/EPA/SGN Socotra Project
<b>14.20 – 14.40</b>	Kay van Damme	The Soqotra Conservation and Development Portal
<b>14.40 – 15.00</b>	Mohanned Abd Algamil Abdullah Ali	The impacts of community-based ecotourism on communities' attitudes towards conservation: Case Study from Socotra Archipelago, Yemen

**15.00 – 15.20**

**COFFEE BREAK**

### SESSION ONE

<b>15.20 – 15.40</b>	Eike Neubert	IUCN red listing Soqotra - where are we?
<b>15.40 – 16.00</b>	Haifaa Abdulhalim	Tabe'a Programme support to Soqotra

**16.00 – 18.00**

### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Socotra's natural and cultural heritage: Present and Future

Sustainable Development

**19.00**

**CONFERENCE DINNER**

**Location:**

Altes Tramdepot, Grosse Muristalden 6, 3006 Bern, Switzerland

# 16th Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Soqotra

## Programme

**Sunday 29.10.2017**

### **Location.**

Natural History Museum. Bernastrasse 15. CH-3005 Bern. Switzerland.

### **Friends of Soqotra Annual General Meeting**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>09.00 – 11.15</b> | <b>Annual General Meeting</b>   |
| <b>11.15 – 11.30</b> | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>   |
| <b>11.30 – 13.00</b> | <b>Annual General Meeting</b>   |
| <b>13.00 – 14.00</b> | <b>LUNCH</b>  |
| <b>14.00 – 15.15</b> | <b>Round Table Discussion: The Future of the Friends of Soqotra<br/>where to from here?</b> |
| <b>15.15 – 15.30</b> | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>   |
| <b>15.30 – 17.00</b> | <b>Optional Guided Tour of the Museum</b>   |

### **Monday 30.10.2017**

#### **Post-conference tour:**

The tour will depend on the weather. Please be prepared to bring warm clothes and water-proof shoes, we might have snowfall. Please confirm your attendance at the registration desk on Saturday.

We will visit Solothurn, and old city not too far away from Bern, which once was founded as a military camp by the Romans called "Solodurum", derived from the celtic Salódürōn (water gate). Today, it is the most renowned baroque city of Switzerland. We will have a guided tour in the morning, followed by a snack in the city. After this little break, we will move to Oberdorf, where the cable car will lift us up to ca. 1300 m on top of the Jura Mts. above Solothurn; the mountain is called Weissenstein. Over there, we should have a panoramic view to the complete alpine chain including the very big mountains south of Bern, and can have a short round walk; after that, we can have a coffee break in the restaurant there, and in the late afternoon go back with the cable car to Solothurn, and return to Bern.

Meeting in Bern Central station, exact dates NN; costs ca. 60 SFR/person; subsistence not included.

# **Programme**

**Monday 30.10.2017**

**Location.**

Bern Central Station

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>08.45</i>         | <b>Meet at Bern Central Station</b>   |
| <i>09.05 – 09.42</i> | <b>Rail travel to Solothurn</b>   |
| <i>10.00 – 11.30</i> | <b>Guided tour of Solothurn</b>   |
| <b>11.30 – 13.00</b> | <b>LUNCH</b>  |
| <i>13.30 – 13.50</i> | <b>Railway travel Solothurn-Oberdorf</b>  |
| <i>13.50 – 16.30</i> | <b>Cable car Oberdorf-Weissenstein and a little hiking tour on the Weissenstein; alpine panorama, coffee break etc...</b> |
| <i>16.30 – 16.50</i> | <b>Cable car Weissenstein-Oberdorf</b>  |
| <i>17.10 – 18.11</i> | <b>Railway travel Oberdorf-Bern</b>   |

## The venue



## Getting there and away

### By plane

**Bern Airport ([www.flughafenbern.ch/en/home](http://www.flughafenbern.ch/en/home) [www.alpar.ch](http://www.alpar.ch)), features only a small number of direct European flights and transfer connections through Basel, Zurich, and other airports. In most cases it may be more convenient to fly to Zurich ([www.zurich-airport.com/passengers-and-visitors](http://www.zurich-airport.com/passengers-and-visitors)), Basel ([www.euroairport.ch](http://www.euroairport.ch)), or Geneva ([www.gva.ch/en/](http://www.gva.ch/en/)), and to reach Bern by train from there. Zurich and Geneva offer very convenient changes at their respective airport railway stations, with direct connections; the journey will take 75 (Zurich) or 120 minutes (Geneva). Trains leave Zurich Airport twice an hour always at 13 minutes or at 40 minutes past the hour. Trains leave Geneva Airport twice an hour always at 01 minutes or at 36 minutes past the hour. You should buy your ticket at the rail ticket counter at the Airport as there is a surplus charge if you buy it on the train.**

EuroAirport Basel has frequent bus connections to Basel main station, from where the train to Bern takes approximately one hour. Train tickets are available at vending machines and counters at the stations; timetable info at [www.sbb.ch/en/home.html](http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html). (There is a possibility to have your luggage checked through to Bern directly, see [www.sbb.ch/en/station-services/services/luggage-and-flight-luggage/flight-luggage/flight-luggage.html](http://www.sbb.ch/en/station-services/services/luggage-and-flight-luggage/flight-luggage/flight-luggage.html).)

### By train

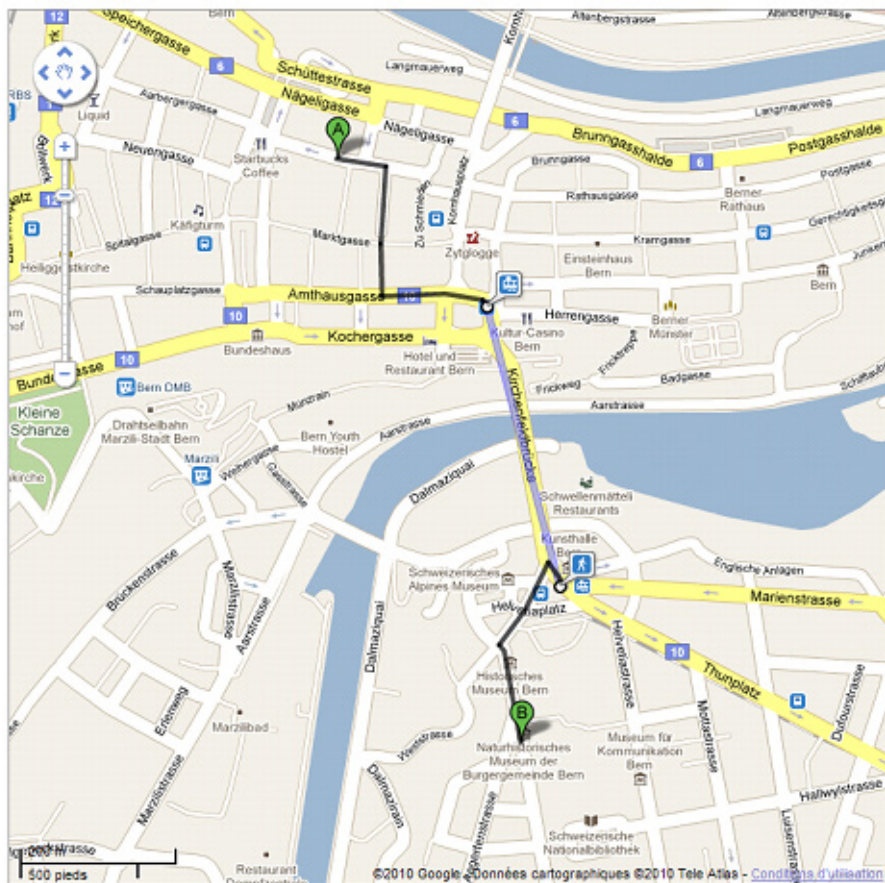
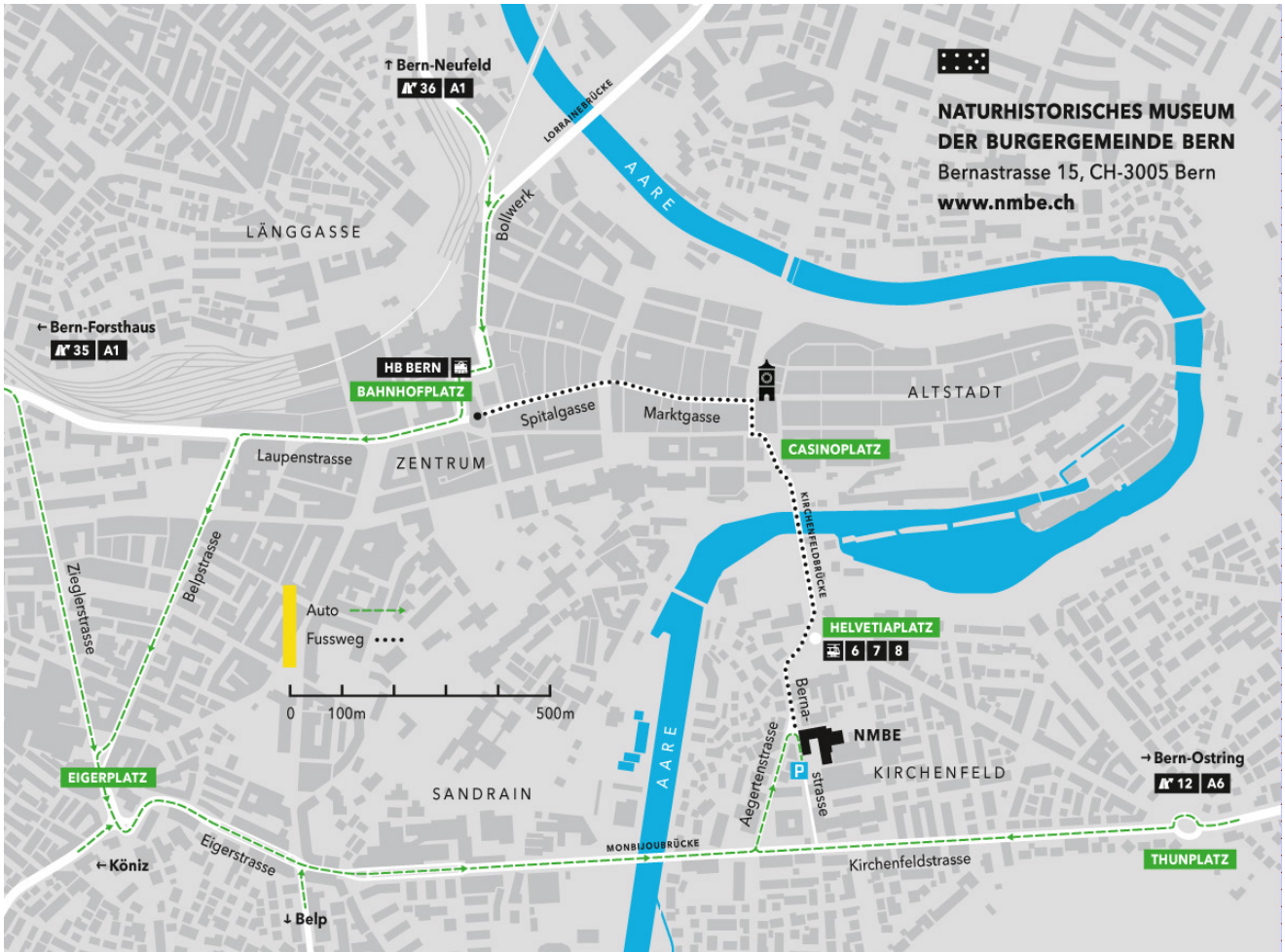
Participants from neighbouring countries may consider travelling to Bern by train. There are convenient connections from most countries to Bern Central Station. For timetable information look at [www.sbb.ch/en/home.html](http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html).

### By car

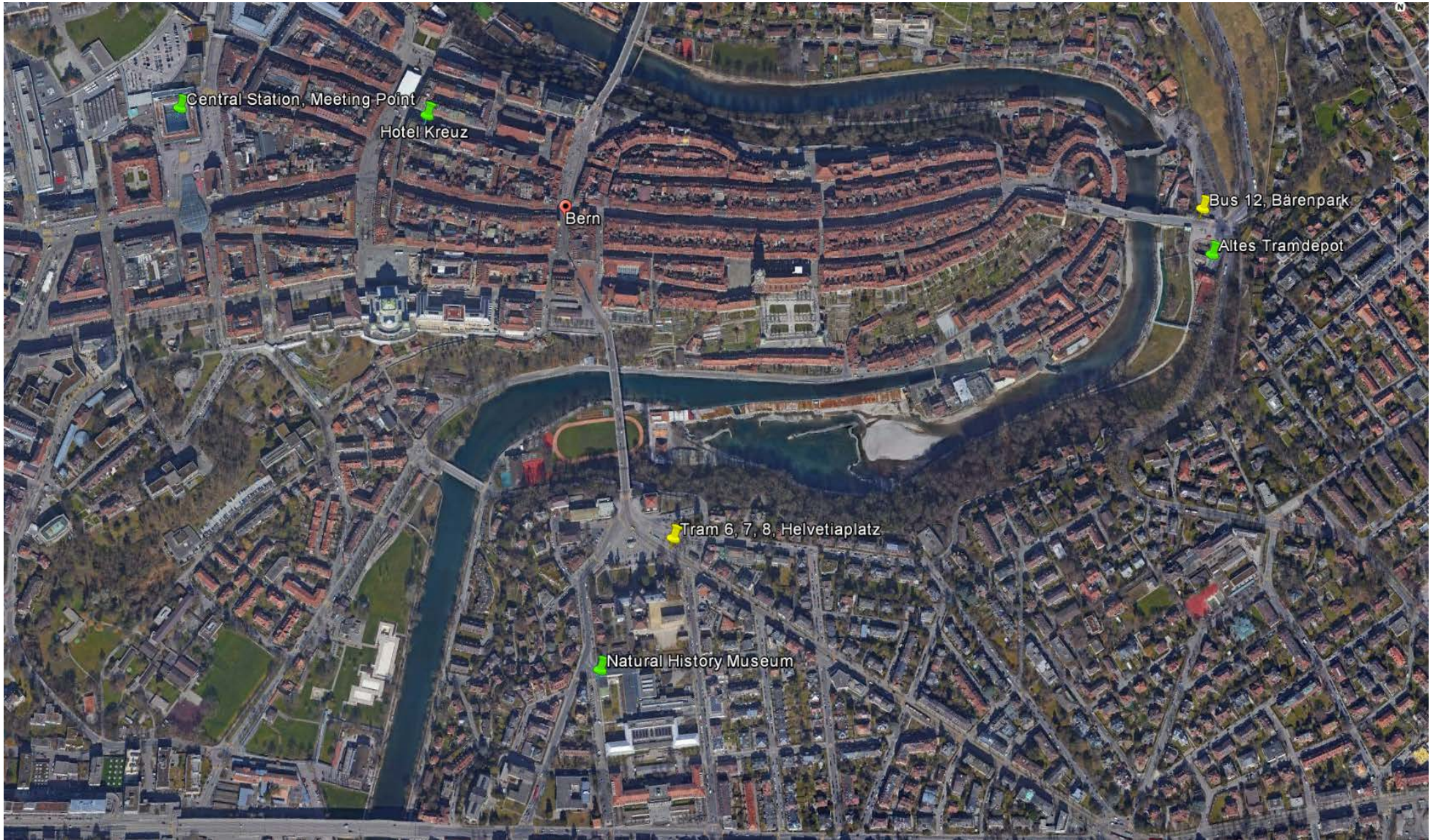
#### Inner city Bern:


As in all larger Swiss cities, the local traffic system is excellent and provides a number of transportation possibilities ([www.bernmobil.ch](http://www.bernmobil.ch), only in German). However, the city is quite small, so normally trained persons can walk all necessary distances.

# Maps for the venue



# Locations in Bern



Central Station – “Meeting Point”  For Monday Excursion

Hotel Kreuz – walking distance from the central station

Natural History Museum – Tram 6, 7 or 8 to “Helvetiaplatz”

Altes Tramdepot – Bus 12 to “Bärenpark”