



**NATURHISTORISCHES MUSEUM
DER BURGEGEMEINDE BERN**
MUSEE D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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

First Circular

It is with great pleasure that we would like to invite you to the 16th Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Soqotra. 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 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.

Call for Papers

This year the conference organisers would like open up the call for papers to as broad an audience as possible and would therefore like to welcome papers on a wide range of subjects that would include but by no means be limited to studies in malacology, archaeology, ecology, speleology, history, conservation, the marine and terrestrial environment, sociolinguistics, fauna, flora, policies and media.

Preliminary Programme

27 October – Afternoon registration and evening meal.

28 October – Conference day.

29 October – FoS Annual General Meeting and afternoon excursion.

30 October – Optional excursion to visit sites in and around Bern.

The venue

Getting there and away

By plane

Bern Airport (www.flughafenbern.ch/en/home 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), Basel (www.euroairport.ch), or Geneva (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. (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.)

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.

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, only in German). However, the city is quite small, so normally trained persons can walk all necessary distances.

Accommodation

There are MANY hotels in the city of Bern offering rooms at all price levels, please check and book according to your wishes and budget. Two hotels at walking distance to the museum are listed below offering rooms at reasonable fairs (Swiss level!).

Hotel Continental
Zeughausgasse 27
CH-3011 Bern
Tel. +41 (0)31 329 21 21
Fax +41 (0)31 329 21 99
info@hotel-continental.ch
www.hotel-continental.ch

Hotel Nydeck
Gerechtigkeitsgasse 1
3011 Bern
Tel + 41 (0)31 311 86 86
Fax + 41 (0)31 312 20 54
info@hotelnydeck.ch
www.hotelnydeck.ch/index.php/en/welcome/

Both hotels are also at walking distance from the train station. Breakfast will be provided at the hotel for the days of the meeting. On Saturday, 24.09., lunch will be provided at the meeting venue (Natural History Museum).

For the smaller budget:

Bern Youth Hostel
Weihergasse 4
3005 Bern
031 326 11 11
<https://www.gruppenhaus.ch/en>

The Youth hostel is quite well known, and also in walking distance to the museum. You can form smaller or larger groups, which may reduce the price per person. They also offer family rooms for couples, etc.

or

Hotel/Pension Marthahaus
<http://www.marthahaus.ch/>

For more hotels, please check the following sites:

<http://www.booking.com/city/ch/bern.html>

For more information on the city, please use the official tourist information site

<http://www.berninfo.com/en/>

Contacts

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Please be aware that there is no parking place available at the museum.

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Julian Jansen van Rensburg – fos.secretary@gmail.com

Maps for the venue

