

Welcome to Pilsen!

Pilsen (Plzeň in Czech), with a population of 180 000, is the fourth largest city in the Czech Republic (popul. 10 million). Founded in 1295, Pilsen is a great destination, close to Prague. There is a lot to see, including the highest church spire in the Central Europe (103 m – go up and look around) and a lot of other beautiful historical buildings, such as the renaissance City Hall, the Great Synagogue (third largest synagogue in Europe and the fifth biggest in the world), and the world-famous Pilsner Urquell Brewery... and a plenty of small, flourishing breweries and microbreweries. They are extremely interesting, even if beer is not exactly your favourite drink 😊 There are large parks directly in the city centre and also ponds and woods in the suburbs. Innumerable restaurants and pubs offer a variety of meals and drinks, both Czech and world cuisine. See Pilsen-pictures 😊

Pilsen is the mother of the famous Skoda works. Bedrich smetana, a great Czech national composer went to grammar school here. The parents of Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's came from a village very close to Pilsen.

Trips. Additionally, it is certainly worthwhile making a trip to Prague, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe (see: www.prague.eu – here you can find interesting information and make real/virtual visits to famous sites, order guided tours, tickets etc), or to the West Bohemian Spas, Cesky Krumlov, Kutna Hora, Olomouc, just to name a few. The region around Pilsen is especially rich in baroque architecture (even small towns and villages). We will be happy to advise you where to go if you have time for a trip - and we may even take you (and/or your guests) there if you like....

Kutná Hora (Kuttenberg in German) is a beautiful city of silver, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the 13th-16th century, it competed with Prague economically, culturally, and politically. It was known for its rich silver mines and the mint (e. g. Prague groeschen were minted here). If you would like to go to some other places, tell me and we can help you organize your trip.

Come to Pilsen! We will be happy to have you!

The Venue

Address: (street) Rejskova 10 , Plzeň (300 m from the Main Railway Station)

A nice map is seen at www.biopticka.cz (contacts)

This building used to be the largest cinema (Kino Eden) in the country during the communist times. It was closed in 2006 (see PILSEN-PICTURES). We encourage you to give your presentations here ☺ in our new conference room in the Biopticka laborator.

On the local level, the Kidney Tumor Friends meeting is co-organized by the Department of Pathology, Medical Faculty and Hospital in Pilsen which is part of Charles University in Prague, and by the Biopticka laborator, a huge private pathology laboratory. Whole meeting is supported by GUPS (Genitourinary Pathology Society).

The laboratory is close to a lovely square called Mikulášské náměstí with a large, beautiful park and two grammar schools. A large historical cemetery above the Radbuza river is nearby. The Skoda works founder's grave is here.

Useful contacts:

Please e-mail the registration form to the local organizers. A registration form is enclosed as a separate file. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

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The travel from Prague

Vaclav Havel Airport in Prague– Pilsen approx.100 km

You can go by public transport or by car (usually faster).

1.Public transport

This can take about 2:30 (or longer) to get to Pilsen if everything goes smoothly.

a) bus + bus OR b) bus + /underground/ + train

A. Bus No. 100 from Prague Airport to (Prague -)Zličín (18 minutes)

- change to another bus in Zličín: going from Zličín to Plzeň (Student Agency yellow buses are very popular - a seat reservation in advance is necessary esp. at busy times of the day, approx. 1 hour, 100 CZK.

These tickets can be purchased online on the Student Agency website.

B. Bus 100 to Zličín (18 minutes)

– change to the underground (=METRO, 20 minutes), go to the Main Railway Station in Prague (= Praha hlavní /vlakové/ nádraží)

Or use the bus called Airport Express to reach the main railway station in Prague

– go to Pilsen by train; trains depart every 30 minutes, the ride takes about 1:10 – 1:40 and costs about 100- 200 CZK (depends on the train and the time of the day)

It is nice to look at the scenery, e. g. you can see the Karlštejn castle – a historical gem)

Prague airport: www.prg.aero, www.studentagency.cz (buses)

www.cd.cz (Czech Railways); www.dpp.cz (Prague – public transport)

2. Car

If there are no problems on the motorway, the ride to Plzeň takes about 1 hour. I almost always go to/from the airport by car.

A.Taxi - it is reasonable to book in advance and make sure the price is fixed (prices vary, starting approx. 1600 CZK 1 way Prague Airport – Pilsen; some taxi services may require to get paid for waiting

Ask in advance whether the taxi driver accepts credit cards. There can be surprise price increases due to traffic jams, detours, etc. Unfortunately, some Prague taxi drivers can be untrustworthy.

B. Our laboratory's car: we can bring you from the airport to the venue/to your hotel. Let us know your travel details/arrival; the price is €50 1 way (€100 roundtrip)

A lot of people asked to begin the meeting on Friday afternoon in order not to have to start travelling on Thursday ... so we are trying to make your travel smoother and quicker. Indicate that you want this kind of transfer in the registration form.

At the time of the conference, the main organizers of the transfer are

Mr. David Michal: david.michal@biopticka.cz; mobile: +420737220415 and

Mrs. Irena Kratochvilova: kratochvilova@biopticka.cz; mobile: +420737 220 447.

3. If you use some other means of transportation (incl. your favourite bike, car, private plane, canoe – we have 4 rivers in Pilsen!, parachute) – do not hesitate to ask me in case of any questions 😊

Getting around in Pilsen

The Czech Republic, incl. Pilsen, is relatively safe (ranking among the safest countries). However, use your common sense and take care.

Main Railway Station

The venue is within walking distance from the Main Railway station (300 m) and the main square and the central historical area of Pilsen.

Beware: Central Bus Station (= CAN) used by buses from Prague is in a different part of the city. You can take a taxi to get to the venue from there - 10-15 minutes, approx 100-200 CZK) or you can use public transport (complicated with luggage I guess, 15 minutes, 18 CZK – it is tram No 2 - direction Svetovar) to reach the venue - get off at the stop Hlavni nadrazi = main railway station or Mikulasske namesti). I would strongly recommend taking a taxi.

Public city transport (= MHD) is effective, popular, cheap, and safe. You can pay by credit card in all MHD vehicles in Pilsen (30 minutes =18 CZK). You have to pay immediately on entering the vehicle (a credit card machine is usually in the middle of

the vehicle –look for a credit card sign on the door), the ticket inspectors are strict. Buying a 24-hr ticket is also convenient . www.pmdp.cz

The venue can be easily reached by trams No. 1 and No. 2 and trolleybus No. 12.

Taxis are safe and cheap as well.

Accommodation

1. You can book any accommodation you choose on your own. There are plenty of hotels..please use booking.com or other favourite application. The speakers will stay at Marriott, which is close to laboratory.
<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/prgpz-courtyard-pilsen/>

Parking is available in the hotel garage or in a very close public parking house (just opposite to the hotel, much cheaper).

No reservations can be made through our laboratory system.

Other suggested hotels (however there are plenty of smaller hotels around):

Vienna House Easy Pilsen

www.viennahouse.com

Parkhotel Plzen

www.parkhotel-czech.eu

Hotel Rango

www.rango.cz

How to get from the Marriott Hotel to the Venue - Bioptická laboratoř, Rejskova 10, Plzeň. A nice map is seen at www.biopticka.cz (contacts)

Walking: approx. 1 km, may take 20 minutes, if you walk slowly (go towards the Main Railway Station). Cross the expressway in front of the Marriott Hotel, towards the Football City Stadium- after you cross the road, turn right immediately- walk across the Radbuza river with the Brewery on your left, cross the large highway intersection via the pedestrian bridge above the road, walk around the Vienna House Angelo Hotel past the dining room windows - beware – just opposite to the Vienna House Hotel,

Nádražní street (=Railway Station street) there is The Club of Small Breweries = a popular pub with a great choice of beers = Klub malých pivovarů in Czech). Go past the Main Railway Station. After the second railway bridge, stay on the same side of the street (as the Station) and go up the hill. You will come almost to the square at the top, turn left (one turn earlier than the trolleybus) and you are in front of the laboratory.

If you have to ask the way to the venue, you should rather ask for Mikulasske namesti or main railway station (everybody knows) than for Rejskova street. Some people simply do not know much about pathology.

Useful websites

www.biopticka.cz –Biopticka laborator

www.lfp.cuni.cz – Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Pilsen

Prague airport: www.prg.aero

www.prague.eu

www.studentagency.cz (buses)

www.cd.cz (Czech Railways)

www.dpp.cz (Prague – public transport)

www.visitplzen.eu/tourist/

www.pmdp.cz – Pilsen public transport

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/prgpz-courtyard-pilsen/>

www.studentagency.cz (buses)

www.cd.cz (Czech Railways)

www.dpp.cz (Prague – public transport)

Czech language foundation course

Plzeň=Pilsen, Prague = Praha

Dobrý den - “good day“

MHD = city public transport

Děkuji – thank you

Prosím - please

Pivo = beer

Nádraží= station

Vlakové nádraží= railway station

Hlavní vlakové nádraží = main railway station

Czech crown – česká koruna (Kč = CZK); €1 approx. 26.5 CZK (may vary...)

Useful email addresses - local organizers:

hes@biopticka.cz; kratochvilova@biopticka.cz; for other contacts see above