

RHEA Meeting in Lausanne

This document provides some information to book your flights and hotels. The precise meeting locations on the campus and the meeting schedule will be described in separate documents.

When?

Thursday 9 and Friday 10 June, 2011

On Saturday 11, an optional hiking tour will be organized

JUNE 2011						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Where?

The meeting will be held on the campus of the “Swiss Federal Institute of Technology” in Lausanne (in French: “Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne” (EPFL)). The meeting rooms will be in the “Parc Scientifique” (PSE) buildings where the Cyberbotics and BlueBotics companies are located.

Parc Scientifique PSE-C

Site EPFL

CH-1015 Lausanne

GPS Coordinates: city = Ecublens, street = Colladon J.-D.

The campus is located 7 kilometers outside of Lausanne, connected to the city with the metro line “m1” (see the map on the last page).

Question?

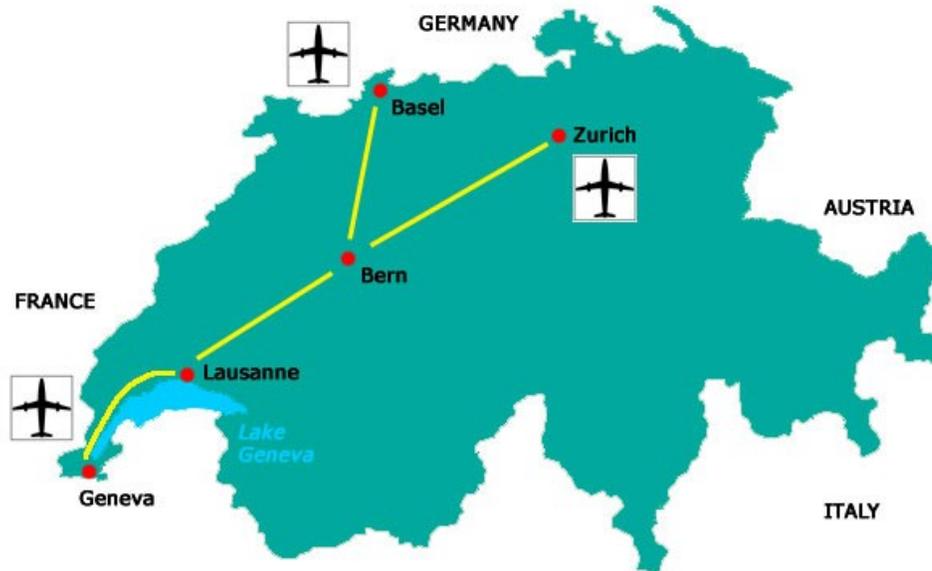
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Reaching Lausanne by Plane

Lausanne has no international airport but it is well connected to the 3 major swiss airports.



Geneva International Airport (GVA)

This is the closest airport and thus the preferred choice.

The train from Geneva Airport to Lausanne takes about 50 minutes (there are about 4 trains per hour). Most trains to Lausanne are direct trains.

A one-way train ticket from Geneva Airport to Lausanne costs CHF 25.-

Zürich Airport (ZRH)

This is the second choice, Zürich has more flights but it is farther from Lausanne.

Lausanne is about 2:30 hours from Zürich Airport (there are about 2 trains per hour).

There are direct trains from Zürich Airport to Lausanne. There are also indirect trains that will require to change in Zürich city, Bern or Biel/Bienne. No matter what you choose, the price stays the same and the duration of the travel does not vary much.

A one-way ticket from Zürich Airport to Lausanne costs CHF 72.-

Basel EuroAirport (BSL)

Lausanne is about 2:40 hours from Basel Airport (there are about 2 trains per hour).

You need to take a bus from Basel Airport to Basel main train station (“Basel SBB”). Then there are direct trains from Basel SBB to Lausanne. There are also indirect trains that will require to change in Bern or Biel/Bienne. No matter what you choose, the price stays the same and the duration of the travel does not vary much.

A one-way ticket from Basel SBB to Lausanne costs CHF 61.-

Trains from the Airports to Lausanne

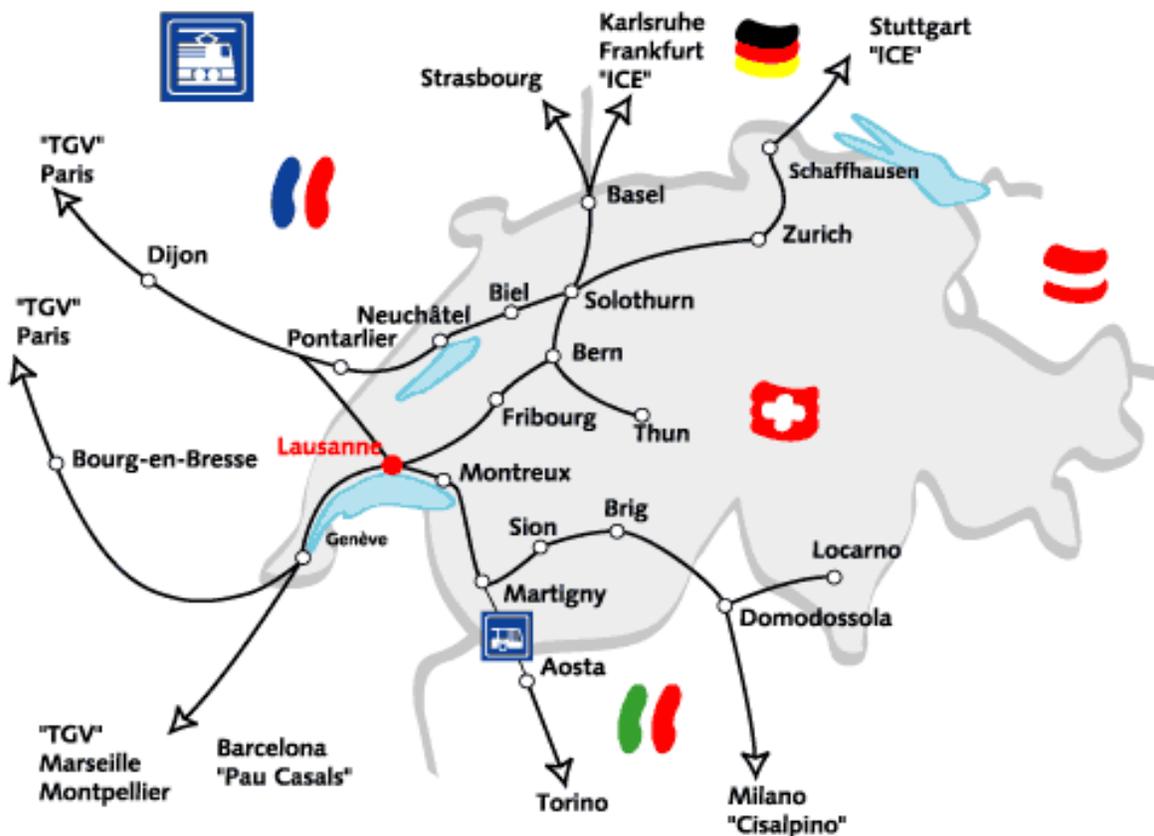
The train schedules can be consulted here: <http://www.sbb.ch/en/index.htm>

- It is not necessary to book the train, there is always enough place ...
- You can usually pay in Euros at the counters and ticket machines.
- The price of the tickets does not vary depending on the time of the day, so the prices indicated above should be exact.
- The price for a round-trip ticket will be exactly twice the price of a one-way ticket, so you can buy your return ticket immediately or when you return, it does not matter.

Reaching Lausanne by train from Italy, France, Germany, Austria

It is possible to join Lausanne by train: the best possible connections I found:

- from Pisa: 7:08 hours
- from Florence: 5:27 hours
- from Montpellier: 4:47 hours
- from Vienna: 10:26 hours
- from Arnsberg: 8:14 hours



Optional Day Trip on June 11 (Saturday)

On Saturday (for those who want) a hiking tour will be organized. To participate you will need to be able to walk 3 hours on a rocky mountain path (mostly downhill or flat, not uphill!). And you will need to have walking or sport shoes and sunglasses. In case of bad weather a castle visit will be organized instead of the hiking tour. The day trip will be open to a limited number of external guests.

Good Weather Program: Hiking Tour “Rochers de Naye”

Tentative program: start around 9am from Lausanne train station

1. Go by train 1:20
2. Watch the fantastic view on Lake Geneva and the Alps and take a coffee 1:00
3. Walk downhill about 1:20
4. Lunch in a mountain restaurant 2:00
5. Walk about 1:30
6. Return to Lausanne by train 1:20
7. Arrive in Lausanne around 6pm



Train price about CHF 85.- (round trip)

Restaurant price about CHF 30.-.

Bad Weather Program: Castle visit “Château de Chillon”

Tentative program:

1. Go by train/boat 0:50
2. Guided visit about 0:50
3. Relax 1:00
4. Return by train 0:50
5. Arrive in Lausanne around 4pm

Train price about CHF 20.- (round trip)

Castle visit price CHF 12.-

More info: <http://www.chillon.ch/>



Hotels

I have picked up 3 hotels. I really recommend that you book as soon as possible because June is the high (touristic) season in Switzerland.

Hotel Ibis Lausanne Centre **

Website: <http://www.ibishotel.com/gb/hotel-6772-ibis-lausanne-centre/index.shtml>

Room for 1 or 2 persons: CHF 145.- during the week, CHF 109.- during the weekend

Breakfast CHF 15.- per person per day

Free wifi in the lobby, pay wifi in the rooms

This hotel is located 20 minutes walk (up-hill) from Lausanne train station.

By bus: take a “short trip” ticket (CHF 1.90), then take bus 3 or 21 from the train station, get off at the 3rd stop “Chauderon”, walk up a bit, you should see the hotel.

The “Vigie” metro station (where you will take the metro line “m1” to go to the EPFL campus) can be reached in 5 minutes (walk) from this hotel.

Minotel Crystal ***

Website: <http://www.crystal-lausanne.ch/>

Room for 1 person: CHF 129.-

Room for 2 persons – occupied by 1 person: CHF 157.-

Twin or double room for 2 persons: CHF 177.-

A number of rooms were pre-booked for the RHEA meeting: whenever you book and pay, you have to specify that you: participate to the “RHEA-EPFL seminar” to get a discount.

This hotel is located 15 minutes walk (up-hill) from the train station.

By metro: take a “short trip” ticket (CHF 1.90), then take the metro “m2” at the train station, direction “Croisettes”, get off at the second stop “Riponne-Maurice-Béjart”.

The “Lausanne-Flon” metro station (where you will take the metro line “m1” to go to the EPFL campus) can be reached in 5 minutes (walk) from this hotel.

Starling Hotel at EPFL ****

Website: <http://starlinghotels-lausanne.com>

Room for 1 person: lowest price CHF 216.-

Special price for the RHEA meeting: you should pay CHF 235.- instead of CHF 290.-.

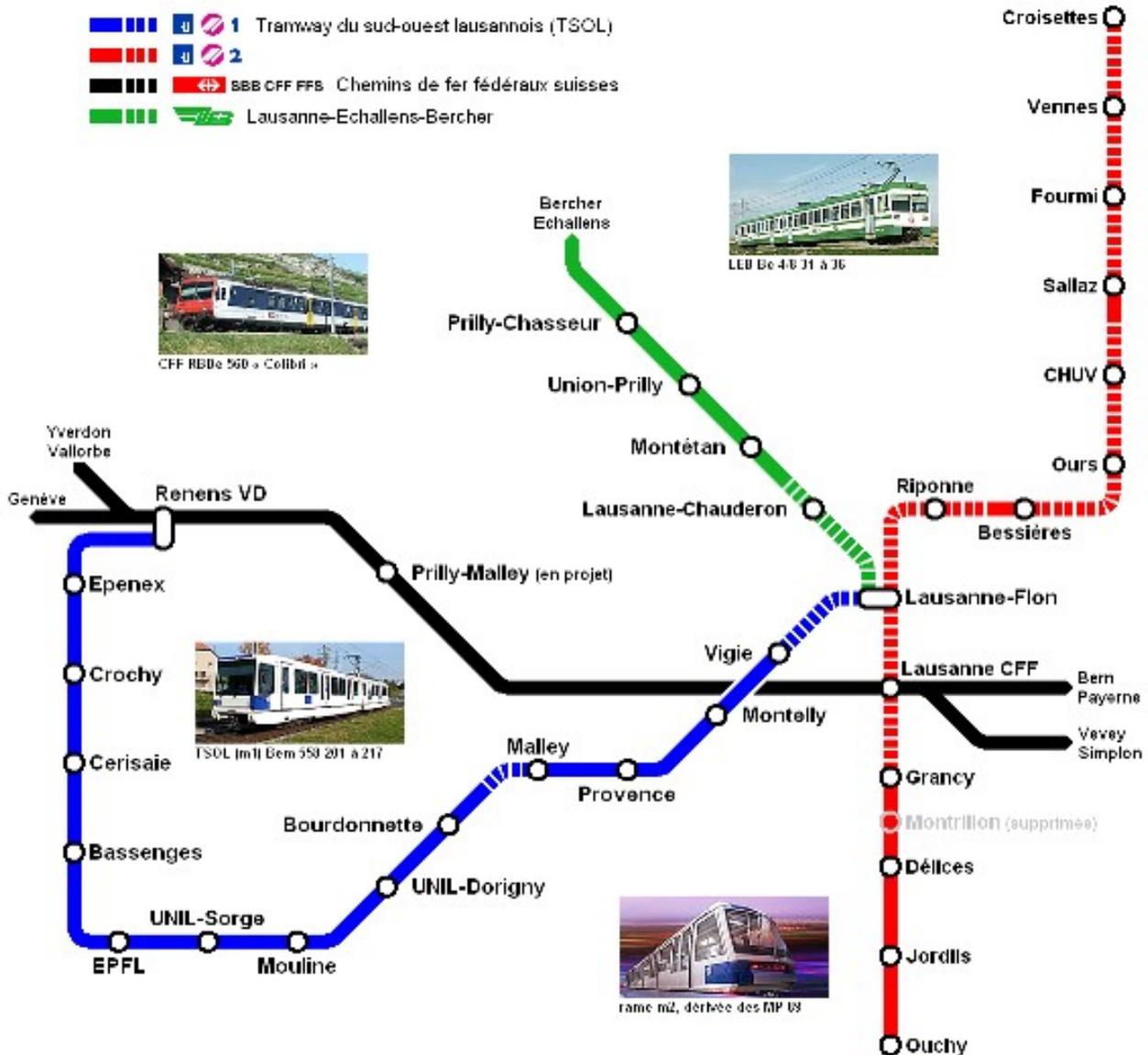
A number of rooms are pre-booked for the RHEA meeting: please specify that you belong to the group “RHEA”. Unlike the others, this hotel is located directly on the EPFL campus, at 5 minutes (walk) from the RHEA meeting rooms, but this is far from the city, train station and evening restaurants.

We recommend to reach this hotel by taxi. If you prefer the public transportation here are the instructions: from Lausanne train station take a “1/1, zone 11+12” ticket (CHF 3.00), then take the metro “m2” direction “Croisettes”, get off at the first stop “Lausanne-Flon”. Then take the metro “m1” direction “Renens”, get off at the “EPFL” stop. Then look at this PDF map:

<http://documents.epfl.ch/groups/e/ep/epfl-unit/www/plan/EPFL-plan-campus-lausanne.pdf>

You will be arriving at the m1-EPFL station near the top, the hotel is at the bottom of the map, you need about 10 minutes to cross the campus.

Lausanne Metro Map



metro m1 (blue line)

metro m2 (red line)

train network (black line)

don't use the green line!

Lausanne CFF: This is Lausanne's main train station that connects to the airports

Lausanne-Chauderon: Location of Hotel Ibis

Vigie: People staying at Hotel Ibis can should the metro “m1” at this station

Riponne: Location of the Minotel Crystal

Lausanne-Flon: People staying at the Minotel Crystal should take the metro “m1” at this station

EPFL: EPFL campus (RHEA meeting) and location of the Starling Hotel

Renens VD: When arriving/leaving from/to Geneva Airport, it may be faster to go through this station rather than through Lausanne city. You need to check on <http://www.sbb.ch/en/index.htm>.

Ouchy: Nice place for going out, near the lake

Bus and Metro Tickets

At your hotels you will have to pay a local “city tax” (CHF 2.50 (or 2.80 depending on the hotel) per person and per night). Upon payment of the “city tax” you should receive a “transport card”, that will allow you to use the metro, the bus and some trains in the Lausanne area. Make sure you receive this card and then take it with you at all times so you will not need to buy any metro or bus ticket during your stay. For example with this card you can take the metro “m1” to the EPFL campus.

Only on the first day, when arriving at the Lausanne train station then you will need to buy a ticket. To reach the Ibis Hotel or the Minotel Crystal, you need to purchase a “short trip” tickets, CHF 1.90, valid for 3 stops only. To reach the Starling Hotel at EPFL, you will need to purchase a “1/1” (full price), zone “11 & 12” ticket at CHF 3.00. Tickets for the bus and metro lines in Lausanne should be purchased prior to boarding, from machines located at each bus/metro stop (make sure to have coins, Euros are accepted).