

LSC-Virgo Meeting

Amsterdam

Information Bulletin

September 20-26 2008

Contents

1. Welcome
2. Travel and Transport
3. Registration
4. Presentations and Proceedings
5. Conference activities
6. Emergencies
7. Tentative program

1. Welcome

Welcome to the LSC-Virgo Meeting at Nikhef in Amsterdam. This note gives you some information which might be helpful for your stay here.

2. Travel and Transport

Amsterdam

Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands, is world known for different reasons. With 700 000 inhabitants and more than ½ million bikes it is the largest city of the Netherlands. 6,800 historic buildings, mostly of the 17th and 18th century, 600 channels with more than 1000 bridges and 2000 houseboats etc give the city a unique style and character. Amsterdam's old town centre is very compact. The museums, monuments, markets, shopping areas and other attractions are generally within walking distance of each other. The meeting will take place in a Catholic church, “De Duif” (the Dove), built in 1856 and now listed as a monument, which is in the old centre of Amsterdam (see www.stadsherstelamsterdam.nl/content/eng/zaalverhuur/deduif.php). Amsterdam also offers a wide variety of theatres, music halls, etc. in which you can enjoy all kinds of cultural activities.

Amsterdam is a safe city, and there is nothing to fear when walking in any part of the city. However, in contrast to the above mentioned statistics, the number of pickpockets is not well known. Thus, don't leave your belongings unattended. When you're in a bar, restaurant or coffee shop, keep your bag near to you - under the table, between your legs. If you use a bike, attach it with a heavy chain to metal bike racks or other solid structures.

Getting around

The best way to move around in Amsterdam is by **bike**. Public transportation which is rather dense and frequent in Amsterdam can be a convenient alternative. As everywhere in the world, you will find lots of taxis, but they are not inexpensive.

Renting a bike:

The following site

http://goamsterdam.about.com/od/gettingaroundamsterdam/a/where_rent_bike.htm

offers good information and a list of addresses where you can actually rent a bike.

When parking your bike make sure you fasten the bike with a serious chain to a concrete structure - or take at least an insurance against theft.

Numerous taxi stands are located throughout Amsterdam. You can order a taxi by phoning 777 7777, or 0900-0724. Hailing a taxi is less common in the Netherlands.

If you plan to come by car, please be aware that Sunday, Sept 21st is "car-free". You may not enter the city from 10:00 till 17:00, and circulation will be (very) restricted. Please note that we will provide bus service for **all** meetings which do not take place at De Duif but at Nikhef. Please, refer to <http://www.Nikhef.nl> for driving instructions.

In some occasions (e.g., rainy weather), **public transportation** can be a welcome alternative. There is a dense network of trams, buses, metro (subway) and trains. Within the city limits, these modes of transportation have an identical fare system, and connections can be made without a problem. Amsterdam airport, Schiphol, is not within the city limits, and normal train tickets are required for travel to and from Schiphol.

In trams, tickets can be bought from the driver (likewise in buses), the conductor in the rear of the tram, or a machine in the middle of the tram, depending on the type of tram. However, it is considerably cheaper to buy a "strippenkaart" in advance from a news stand, bookshops, in a post office or railway station, or at the GVB office in front of Centraal Station for € 6.80 for 15 strips. On most trams you stamp these cards yourself in the yellow machines in the tram: each journey uses one strip plus a strip for every zone you travel in. If you stay within the city centre, which is one zone, leave one strip blank and stamp the second:



If you travel over a zone border, such as from the city centre to Nikhef, you are traveling in two zones, so leave two strips blank and stamp the third. A ticket is valid for one hour, regardless of the number of transits, and children below four years old travel for free. Several people can travel on one strippenkaart, just stamp it for the first person and again for the second, and so on.

On some trams there is a conductor: you get on at the back of the tram and the conductor stamps your ticket for you. You should hail a tram to indicate you want to get on. Press the button near the door to open it, if the tram has a conductor you must use the rear door to get on.

In express trams, metro and trains no tickets can be purchased, and travelers must ensure they are in the possession of a valid ticket (= a "strippenkaart" with a valid stamp). These can be bought from vending machines or counters in the station, make sure you stamp them in the yellow machines.

Public transport runs until just after midnight. After that there is an hourly service of night buses.

From Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to Downtown

The Hotel Amsterdam Centre is close to Amsterdam Centraal Station. There are about 6 direct trains per hour from the airport to Central Station. Obtain first a ticket at the vending stations for € 3,80.

Alternatively, take a cab for an exclusive ride which last longer for about 10 times the price (~ € 40 for a 20 minute ride). Only take taxis from the official taxi stands. Specifically: do not accept offers for transport made to you in the arrivals hall.

Hotel Ibis - De Duif, Prinsengracht 756 (2 strips):

Trams 4, 16, 24 and 25 leave from Centraal Station and stop at Prinsengracht close to De Duif.

Hotel Ibis - Nikhef (3 strips):

Please note that we will provide bus service (Meering Touringcars at Shipping Company Lovers (on the opposite site of Ibis) for **all** meetings which do not take place at De Duif but at Nikhef. If you choose for public transportation: take any metro line to the Amstel Railway station and take there bus 40. Or take tram 9, get out at the stop Kruislaan and take bus 40, or walk in about 15 minutes.

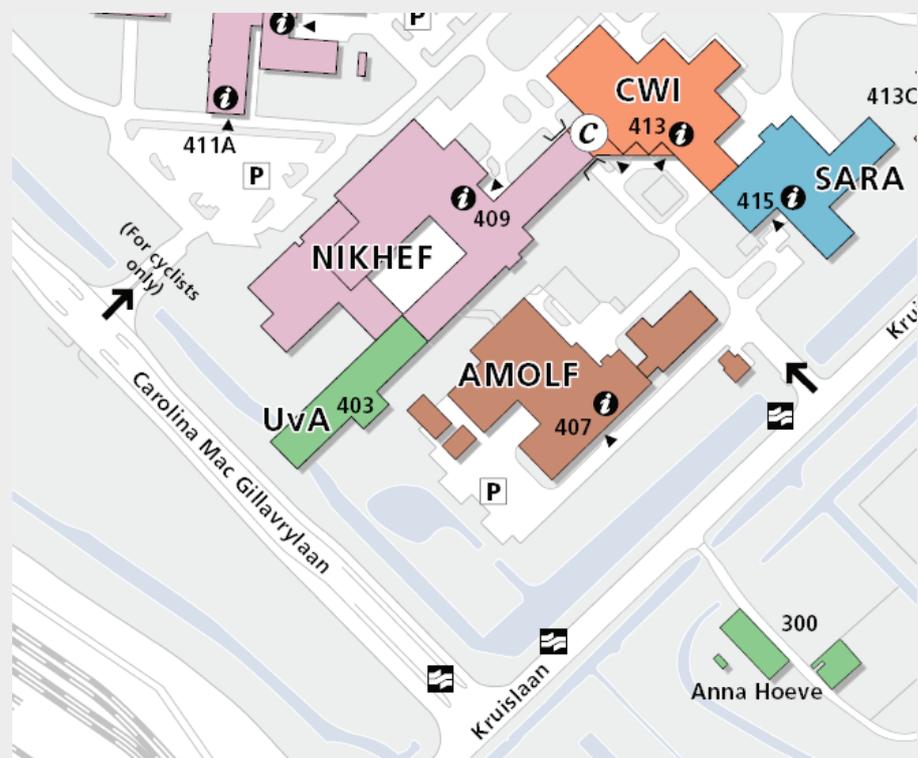
Please note: bus 40 runs on weekends only every 30 minutes before 9:30 and after 17:30.

For details, please, have a look at these sites:

<http://www.amsterdamtips.com/getting-around-amsterdam-the-strippenkaart.php>

and <http://www.amsterdam.info/transport>

The entrance to the lecture halls at Nikhef is the CWI building (cf. map below).



Other information

In September, Amsterdam time is two hours ahead of GMT. Weather is often very nice in this time of the year, with temperatures reaching between 20 and 25 °C (68 .. 77 F) - but it can also be rainy.

In most Dutch restaurants, the kitchen closes at 22.00 hours. Service charges are included in the bill. If you deem the service good enough to warrant a tip, a couple of Euros will be appreciated.

The towns of Haarlem, Leiden, Utrecht and the Hague are not far from Amsterdam, and are easy to reach by train. From Amsterdam Centraal Station traveling times are: Haarlem 15 minutes, Leiden 35 minutes, Utrecht 30 minutes, and the Hague 50 minutes. From Amsterdam, the beach at Zandvoort is easily reachable by train (30 minutes, change in Haarlem).

Most shops in Amsterdam are open from 9.00 to 18.00 hours, Monday through Saturday. Shops in the city centre are also open on Sunday from 12.00 to 17.00 hours, while on Monday morning some shops are closed. On Thursday evening shops stay open longer, typically until 21.00 hours.

3. Registration

The Registration Desk will be open every day during the morning sessions in the hall in front of the Newton room (Z011) at Nikhef, respectively at De Duif. Participants are requested to wear their badges during the conference and during the lunches which are served in restaurant Sluizer (Utrechtsestraat 41-45; www.sluizer.nl/index-ENG.html), a 400 m walk.

To participants who have not yet paid: The fee can be paid in cash at the time of registration (credit cards are accepted, but no cheques). Participants must be registered when entering the conference rooms. The conference dinner will take place on Wednesday evening. Please make sure that you have registered for it, so that we can reserve a seat for you.

Accompanying persons

There is no programme scheduled for accompanying persons.

Internet services

Wireless internet will be available. You should forward your wireless MAC address in advance if you want internet access during the face2face meetings at Nikhef (see LSC – Virgo conference web page). Instructions for wireless access in De Duif will be handed out during registration.

4. Program, Presentations and Proceedings

Please, refer to the LSC-Virgo Wiki page:

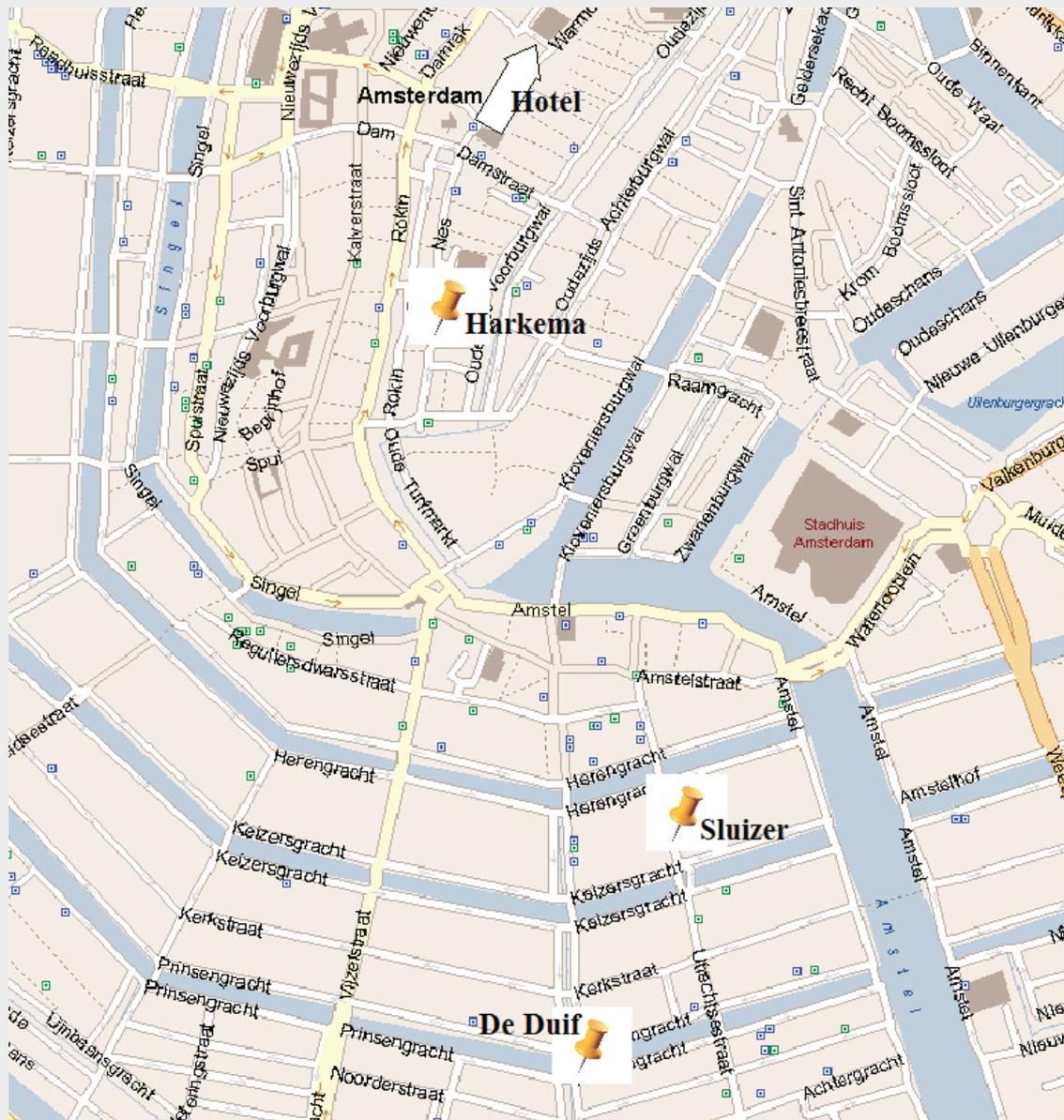
<http://www.lsc-group.phys.uwm.edu/ligovirgo/meetings/LSCVirgo0809>

Welcome drinks

Welcome drinks on Sunday from 19:00 till 20:00 at the Ibis Amsterdam Centre.

Conference dinner

It takes place at “Harkema”, Nes 67 (see www.brasserieharkema.nl/index_eng.php), on Wednesday evening, 19:30. See map below. This restaurant is centrally located in the old inner town of Amsterdam.



5. Emergencies

For life threatening situation dial 112. In case of an emergency on Science Park please contact the Nikhef reception at 2000. Outside office hours contact the guard at 6000, for off campus access prefix numbers with 020 592 (within The Netherlands).

The general emergency telephone number in the Netherlands is 112. This will connect you to an operator who will alarm police, medical aid or the fire brigade. Police can be contacted for non-urgent matters via the number 0900-8844.