

Prague, the City of a Hundred Spires and the capital of the Czech Republic,

will be hosting the 21st annual V. M. Goldschmidt Conference between August 14 and 19, 2011. One thousand years ago Prague was the third-largest European city, and today it has established itself as the fourth-largest tourist destination on the Old Continent (following Paris, London and Rome).

Meeting preparations are in full swing. The conference will take place in the Prague Congress Center, overlooking the historical town quarters, and the 1100-year-old Royal Castle. Once you enter the Congress Center, conveniently located near an underground station, you will be able to reach any of the 20 lecture halls, the poster sessions and the exhibitors' area in less than a minute. The smoothly operating public transport system will take you to the conference venue in less than 30 minutes, regardless of the location of your hotel or student dormitory. Budget accommodation has been negotiated at student dormitories for over 1600 conference participants.

Half-day city sightseeing tours and two-day preand post-conference field trips will visit some of the nation's 12 protected UNESCO World Heritage castles and country houses, as well as cities like Cesky Krumlov and Telc, and natural preserve areas.

The scientific program will be a well-balanced mix of high- and low-temperature geochemistry, and biogeochemistry and environmental themes. The Scientific Program Committee of the 21st Goldschmidt Conference, along with the local organising team, look forward to welcoming you all to a stimulating and rewarding gathering in Prague in 2011. In addition to being the geographical centre of Europe, for one week in the middle of August 2011, Prague will hopefully also become the scientific heart of Europe.

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