

ALG Spring Meeting 2026 – Prague

19th – 20th March 2026

Since the 1960s, excavations in Prague city centre have produced significant leather finds, especially from riverside sites with good preservation conditions. Major construction projects over the past 20 years also uncovered two substantial 14th–15th century collections: one from Wenceslaus Square and one from the “Jáma” (Pit) site near the medieval city wall. These collections are housed by two different institutions, both of which have offered us a short visit to view selected pieces.

These excursions will be accompanied by a day of talks held in the library of the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, organised in collaboration with this institute. The programme includes an introduction to the visited sites and collections by Jindřich Figura (working on the Jáma site), a presentation on the Wenceslaus Square excavations by Jana Obročníková, and an overview of Czech archaeological leather by Aleš Hoch, based on his previous research. We hope to dedicate the remaining time to short contributions (5–20 minutes) on leather accessories.

Participants should arrange their own travel and accommodation, some information on the area is provided at the end of this document. The costs of the meeting is £60 for attendees and includes lunch and refreshments on Friday 20th March. Lunch on Thursday 19th and other meals and expense will be an additional cost. The £60 cost will be waivered for speakers giving talks of over 15 minutes.

Programme of activities:

Day 1 – Thursday 19th March

10.00am - Visit to conservation workshops and collection from Wenceslaus square (address: Pod Viaduktem 2595/3, 155 00 Praha 5)

12.30 - 13.00 – Travel by public transport to the city centre and have lunch on the way in a local restaurant on Malá Strana. This is optional and individuals can make their own arrangements if they prefer.

14.30 - Visit to National Heritage Collection (National Heritage Institute, Regional Office in Prague, address: Na Perštýně 356/12, 110 00 Praha 1)

16:30 – Optional visit to the U Zlatého Prstenu Museum, Museum of Prague. This modern exhibition in the Old Town includes a small selection of leather artefacts and presents an excellent overview of Prague's medieval development and archaeology. The museum is open daily until 18:00. Admission is €8.50, payable individually. It is a 10-minute walk from the final excursion point through the city centre.

More information is available on the museum's website -
<https://www.muzeumprahy.cz/en/buildings/dum-u-zlateho-prstenu-4>)

19.00 – Optional local dinner

Day 2 – Friday 20th March

Talks held in the library of the Institute of Archaeology of Czech Academy of Science (address: Letenská 123/4, 118 00 Praha 1)

09:00 – Arrivals and tea/coffee

09:50 – Welcome talk

10:00 – Talks about local archaeological leather from Prague and Czech

11.30 – Morning refreshment break

11.45 - Second session of talks

13:00 - Lunch break (provided)

14.00 - 16.00 - Third session of talks

A full list of talks will be provided ahead of the meeting.

Transportation:

Prague has excellent public transport, and tickets can be purchased easily through the mobile app. 24-hour and 3 day tickets are available and can be used on the metro, trams, buses, and ferries across the city. More details can be found on the transport authority's website -<https://www.dpp.cz/en/fares/fare-pricelist>

Accommodation:

March is the off-season in Prague, so accommodation in the city centre is relatively affordable. Prices for two people over two nights are roughly €120 on Booking.com. Staying in Prague 1 (Staré Město, Nové Město, Malá Strana), where most of our programme takes place, is not significantly more expensive than other districts. Prague 3 (Žižkov and Vinohrady) offers good tram connections, with about 15 minutes to the city centre. For an easy start on the first day, Prague 5 (Smíchov) is also a good option; it is slightly farther from the Old Town but still on a direct tram route (about 15 minutes).