

Practical notes for NISN-2014 conferees, Aalborg; May 7-9

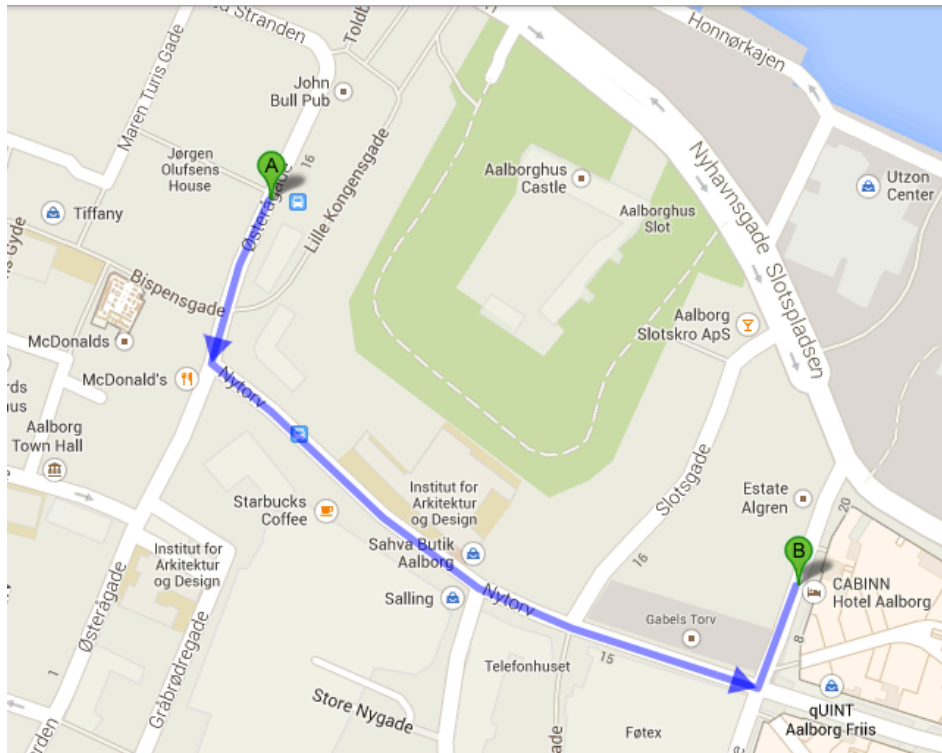
Welcome to Aalborg, Friis Campus and CAB-INN Hotel. These notes will hopefully help you have a fine time at the conference and in our city!

Bent

ARRIVAL

Many of you will no doubt arrive in Aalborg on Tuesday, May 6. I'll be in the lobby of the conference hotel from about 4.30 p.m. that day if you want to say hello, chat a bit and maybe arrange to go out later for a drink and some dinner. I'll be easy to recognize: an aging, longhaired, full-bearded blond Viking/Hippy type...

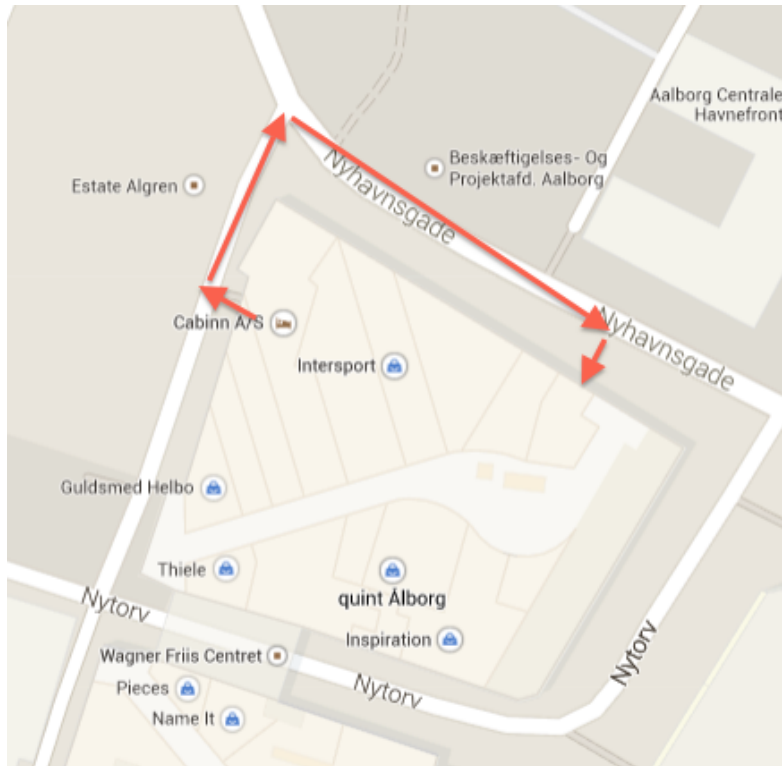
Getting from the airport to downtown Aalborg where the hotel and conference space (both part of the Friis mall) are located is easy. Take a bus no. 2 from outside the terminal building at the airport towards Aalborg city center. The ride takes 18 minutes; price 20 Dkr. Ask to get off at Nytorv. You will, incidentally, be deposited right in front of The Irish House, our designated watering hole for the conference after-hours relaxation. From there it's a short walk to CAB-INN. One may also share a cab from the airport, cost 150-200 Dkr., all according to traffic.



If you arrive by train or bus to Aalborg, rather than by plane, you'll already be in the city center and can walk to CAB-INN in 10 minutes.

CONFERENCE VENUE

To get from CAB-INN to AAU Friis Campus where the conference is held, just walk around the corner from the hotel in the morning, down Nyhavnsgade to the side door of the same large mall/hotel/campus building– it takes 2 minutes... There will be NISN-2014 signs on the door.



The conference rooms (1.03 & 1.09) are on the 2nd floor. 1.03 is the larger of the two, and we'll hold most sessions in there. Note that Friis Campus is not my day-to-day work place, so we cannot assume to have access to printers and photocopiers there. Bring prints from home if you need to give people handouts. CAB-INN will make prints for you in an emergency, but at a fee.

Lunches are on your own all three days. The closest eating option is inside the Friis mall: Joe & The Juice – which, however, has a limited lunch menu and limited seating space. If you go a bit further down Nyhavnsgade, however, you will get to Nordkraft, the main cultural space in Aalborg, where a cinema, a theatre space and a concert venue all are located. In Nordkraft there are three eateries to choose from. The 4th floor DGI cafeteria has daily lunch specials at 59 Dkr. from 12 o'clock; Azzurra Pizza and Italian food is open from 11.30 a.m.; and the Mumbai Indian restaurant is open from 5 p.m. In the area immediately outside Friis and Nordkraft there are many other options, ranging from Asian fast food, over innumerable kebab/pizza joints, to good Italian cucina popular, and innovative Danish "smørrebrød" at the Utzon Center (upmarket).

Nordkraft also hosts the tourist office (<http://www.visitaalborg.com/ln-int/aalborg/tourist>); there for your sightseeing needs (open 10 a.m. -5.30 p.m.)...

RESTAURANTS, PUBS & NIGHTLIFE

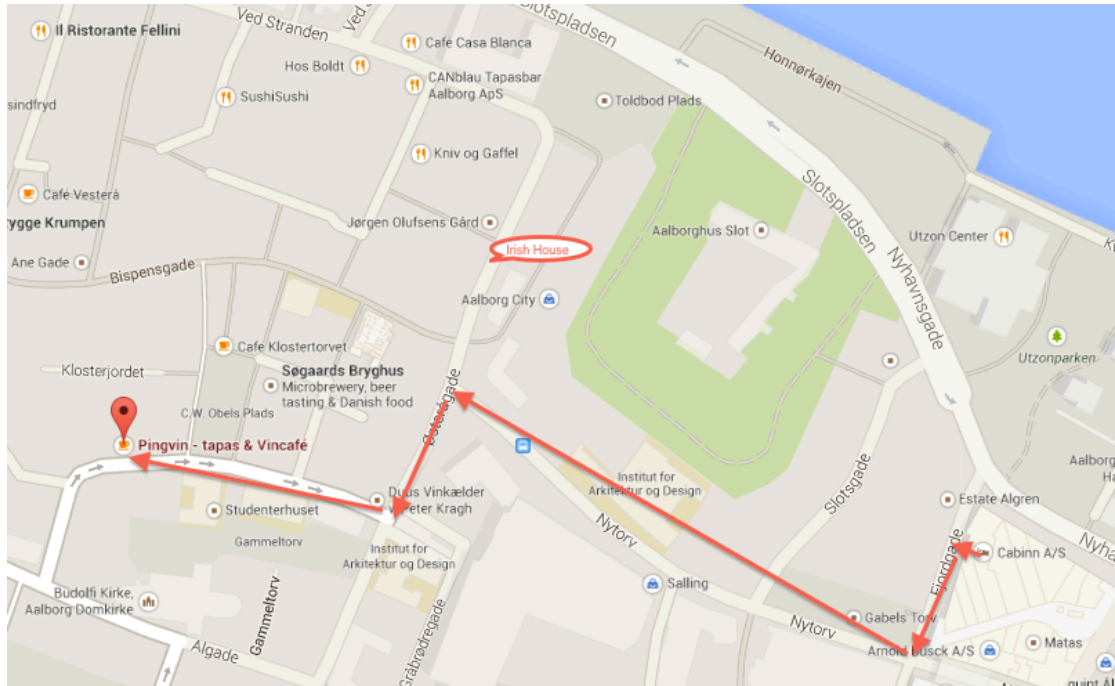
Aalborg's nightlife is hopping. We have restaurants, bars and brew pubs to fulfill your every need. Don't hesitate to ask for further recommendations! I like these places, myself – the first 13 have reasonable vegetarian options available:

1. Café Ministeriet (American/Danish/Middle East) – Mølleplads, +45 98194050
2. Café Spiret (American/Danish) - Boulevarden 24, +45 9810 3300
3. Nadia's Sandwich (Vegetarian) – Østerågade 16, +45 9812 3123
4. Zorba (Greek/Romanian) - Sankelmarksgade 1a, +45 98 11 30 20
5. Duus' Vinkælder (Danish) - Østerågade 9, +45 98125056
6. Fellini (Italian) - Vesterå 13, +45 9811 3455
7. Fusion (Sushi/fusion) - Strandvejen 4, +45 35123331
8. China Restaurant (Chinese buffet) - Borgergade 10, +45 9813 7480
9. MEST (French bistro – slightly upmarket) - Brandstrupsgade 11, +45 70229272
10. SANS (Danish/"New Nordic") - Sankelmarksgade 15, +45 7230 2022
11. Propaganda (Tapas – right across from CAB-INN!) - Slotsgade 33, +45 96330337
12. Mortens Kro (French/Danish haute cuisine – VERY upmarket!) - Mølleå 4, +45 98124860
13. Princes Juliana (Fish specialties – on a boat, permanently moored) - Vestre Havnepromenade 2, +45 9811 5566
14. MEAT (Quality steak-house) - C.W. Obels Plads 16 +45 9810 3500
15. Flammen (Carvery – meat lovers' extravaganza) – Østerågade 27, +45 3526 6368
16. Kniv & Gaffel (Steaks Danish style – funky! Oldest restaurant premises in town) - Maren Turis Gade 10, +45 9816 6972

There's about a hundred other restaurants + plus fast food of all sorts available. The very cheapest eating options (a concern in pricy Denmark) are of course supermarket take-out meals, which range from salads and sandwiches to hot meals. FØTEX has a good selection and is 3 minutes from CAB-INN.

1. The Irish House (Irish and internat. ales) – Østerågade 25, +45 9814 1817. The Irish House is our designated afterhours meeting point, and I have persuaded Sean, the proprietor, to pour NISN badge holders pints at a discounted price: 40 Dkr. (down from 55), for the duration of the conference.
2. John Bull (English pub style) - Østeraagade 20
3. The Wharf (Cask ales and Belgian beer) - Borgergade 16
4. Søgaards Bryghus (Brew pub, good food too – upmarket) - C.W. Obels Plads 1 A, +45 9816 1114

To get to the conference dinner:



This is a 10-12 minute walk from CAB-INN; 5-6 minutes from The Irish House.

OTHER SIGHTS

If you want to spend some time away from the conference, here are a few things to do:

1. See the Utzon Center for great architecture, art and design: http://www.utzoncenter.dk/en/welcome_02.htm
2. Visit KUNSTEN, the Alvar Aalto designed museum of modern art: <http://www.kunsten.dk/default.aspx?AreaID=3>
3. Worship at Budolfi, the local cathedral: <http://www.visitaalborg.com/ln-int/denmark/budolfi-church-gdk596110>
4. Cross the water and go to Lindholm Høje, the Viking burial ground and museum (excellent café there too): <http://www.nordmus.dk/lindholm-gb>
5. Stroll the renovated harbor front: <http://www.visitaalborg.com/ln-int/aalborg/architecture/aalborgs-new-waterfront> - and have a drink at one of the floating restaurants, for instance Elbjørn: <http://www.visitaalborg.com/ln-int/denmark/isbryderen-elbjorn-gdk596084>
6. Take in quirky ceramics at Lange – their transformation gate might turn you into a new person: <http://www.visitaalborg.com/ln-int/denmark/lange-handicrafts-gdk596077>
7. Go underground by elevator to the old Franciscan Friary: <http://www.nordmus.dk/grabrodrekloster-museet-gb>
8. Partake of the view from *War of the Worlds*-like ‘Martian’ structure from 1933, Aalborgtårnet: <http://www.aalborgtaarnet.dk/index.php?lang=de>

Aalborg City centre is very walkable, featuring several linked pedestrian streets. 15 minutes on foot will take you across town in either direction.

While May is generally mild (average high of 15 °C (59 °F)), there is a good chance of rain in Denmark at this, or any time of year. After all, how else would we keep the countryside is so green? Aalborg can also very well be a bit windy, especially near the waterfront.

I will, of course, be working with a team of shamans to secure good weather for the Conference, but at this moment it is looking a bit dodgy...