



The Time of Midwinter

In the White Tracks of the Ore Mountains
Six Gates to the Eagle Mountains
Christmas in Southern Moravia



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Dear Readers,

You are now holding the first number of the first year's edition of the tourist magazine Travel EYE in your hands. As the title itself expresses it is not a common eye but a traveller's eye. Through it you can travel with us around in the Czech and Moravian meads and groves. You can reach mountain ridges, river valleys and visit various regions, towns and villages that you probably had no idea existed – until now.

You can read a new edition of our magazine nine times a year, including three double numbers (January – February, July – August and November – December). You can find it in most of the information centres all over the Czech Republic always in the first week of the new month. Moreover you can receive it in selected Tourist Fairs.

In the current edition we have focused on customs and habits that the Czechs still keep, or at least strive to keep, in the time of Advent and Christmas. But besides that you will find tips on how and when to spend your winter holiday in the Czech Republic, where you will find culture and sports events, or where you can relax. No matter if it is your first visit in the Czech Republic or you are our regular visitors, we will be happy if you leave our country with a piece of it not only in a traditional bottle of Bech-
erovka but also on the pages of our Travel EYE.

Luděk Sládek
Editor-In-Chief



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Dear editors of KAM Magazine,

We take the liberty of sending this letter to you and at the same time we would like to give you the fairy hobgoblin “Forest Journalist” as a talisman of your new magazine, which will certainly contribute to development of tourism in the Czech Republic. This fairy hobgoblin comes from the fairy workshop of the Master of Building Guild – Jindřich Fabián from Poděbrady.

The project Fairytale Šumava started in 2005 and its target is to make the tourist region Šumava more attractive to tourists. And so together with the fairytale teller Zuzana Dorogiová we started to look for fairy figures, hobgoblins and ghosts. Just one year later the exhibition of nature’s fairy creatures was organized by Jindřich Fábín with a lot of help from Zuzana Lošťáková. The permanent exhibition was placed in the village Mlázovy where also the Fairytale Šumava project has its office. The project was awarded the certificate “Šumava Original Product” by the Regional Development Agency of Šumava.

*On behalf of the fairytale Šumava Milan Poláček
www.pohadkovasumava.cz*

Dear Mr Poláček,

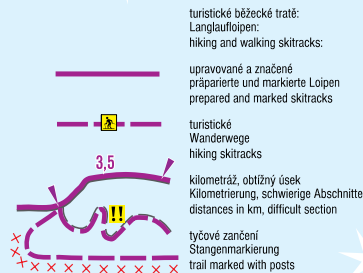
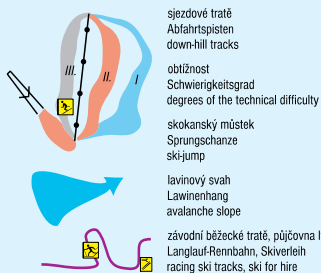
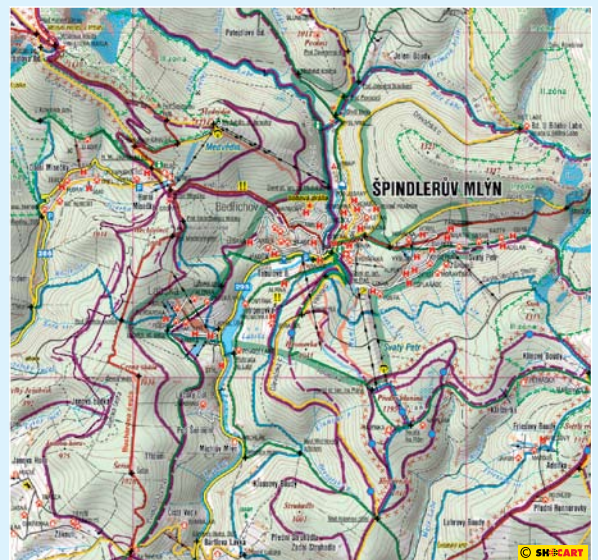
First of all I would like to thank you for the mascot we have received from your fairytale workshop Šumava. But a real mascot needs a name! So that’s why we have called him Jarmil! We hope that he will enjoy being together with us, and since he comes from Šumava he certainly loves picking mushrooms and also is an avid tourist, so he will definitely be a true member of our editorial staff.

Luděk Sládek

★ Skiing in the Czech Republic – Ski Maps by SHOCart ★



- A detailed map with paths for winter hiking and prepared and marked skitracks
- Panoramic eyeview
- Detailed maps of ski districts
- Profiles and description of recommended skitracks
- Index of services for skiers
- Telephone numbers of mountain rescue services



Where is the start and finish of the czech most famous cross-country skiing competition, which will be held for the forty first time?

- Jizera
- Nove Mesto na Morave
- Bedrichov

The winner obtains valuable prices from the leading czech cartographic company SHOCart

What do we know about the St. Nicolas tradition?

In history, legends and folklore St. Nicolas has traditionally been pictured with fancy colours as a patron that helps more or less anybody. St. Nicholas is accompanied by an Angel as a supernatural figure living in Heaven and subordinate to God, and also a Devil as a fairytale creature living in Hell and subordinate to Satan.

From the historical point of view the only thing we know about St. Nicolas is that he was born in AD 280 or 286 in Patras (Greece) and died on December 6 in 345 or 351 in Myra, today Demre (Turkey). That's all. Two towns make "claims" to him, the first being Demre where St. Nicolas died and the other is Bari in Apulia where his remains rest. Surprisingly enough, his remains were taken there by Italian pirates who had stolen them in Myra.



The tradition connected with St. Nicolas, who on the eve of December 6 visits children accompanied by an angel and a devil, differs in St. Nicolas' appearance, dress and company according to which part of the world you visit. And St. Nicolas as you know him today in the Czech Republic was "created" only 100 years ago by the painter Moritz von Swind. The only things that don't change significantly are his attributes. Sometimes it might be three bags with gold, three loaves of bread, but most often three golden balls on a book. According to the legend, the book illustrates a story about a certain noble man who sent his three daughters to a public house to earn money for their marriage portion. St. Nicolas gave each of them one bag of golden coins so that they didn't have to ... and could marry.

I am not sure if this trio is pedagogically suitable as an example for children's education. But if it was considered desirable to change the trailer that precedes every Good Night Story for children in television only because the main figure, Večerníček, serves as a bad example by throwing waste in the streets, falling into unknown space and driving a car without safety belts, then what about St. Nicolas, the Angel and the Devil who can scare the children out of their wits?

Josef Grof

Once again the time before Christmas, the so-called Advent time, has come. The name is of Latin origin – "advenio" means "I am coming". But who is in fact supposed to come? The Christian theological teaching has since time immemorial preached that it is Jesus Christ, our Saviour, whose arrival is expected; his first arrival to the world as a poor baby born in Bethlehem was anxiously awaited by the prophets of the Old Testament. Simultaneously, the longing after his second glorious arrival in the end of the cosmic times is enlivened in this advent time. The advent is fortunately not only a rush-time and a period of frenzied material activities; it has its own unchangeable spiritual atmosphere, first of all the atmosphere of joyful expectation.



The joy, the truly catching joy is something very rare, precious and serious. Even the smile and the joyful excitement are innermost serious matters. Not just the common light-minded merriment, some short-lived light-hearted amusement that comes and vanishes in the oblivion as a blow of the wind, but true joy adhering to the supernatural is something different. It leaves deep, permanent traces and even a memory of it is joyful since the result of the true joy is good-luck that comes as a gift from above.

The Advent time offers us not only the possibility to look forward and enjoy the expectation but it provides us with a suitable opportunity to halt for a while with our own contemplation, look back and remind the course of days and months of the ending year that we have lived through. Was our way of thinking, regarding, judging and acting only in accordance with the legal norms of our civic society in the sense "what the law doesn't literally forbid is allowed to everyone"? And am I really – if I act according to this saying – a "decent person"? I consider this opinion to be erroneous. What if we recall the so-called seven main sins of the Christian ethics: pride, meanness, adultery, envy, greediness, anger and laziness? These are serious vices, clearly contradicting ethics, that we must avoid even though no law forbids them. In my opinion it is not necessary to further elaborate the facet of this meditation.

The Advent – the daily brightness is quickly shortening, evenings are getting longer, mornings wake up late from the darkness, a special atmosphere of contemplation, expectation and reflection surrounds us.

Zdeněk Sternberg

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www.litomysl.cz www.unesco-czech.cz

 *kutná hora*



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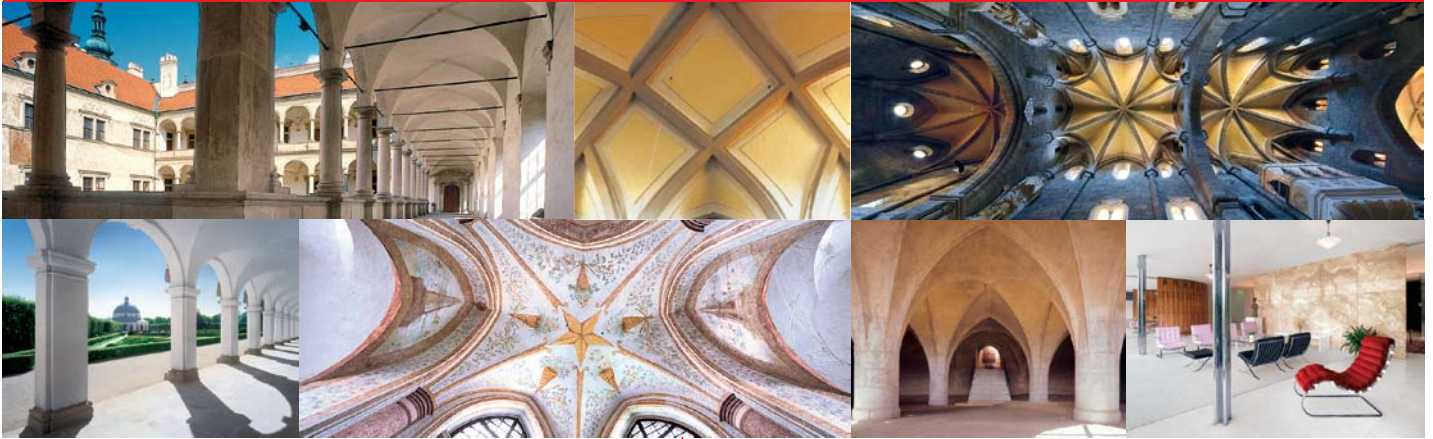

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In the White Tracks of the Ore Mountains

Until now, the Ore (Krušné) Mountains have been crossed by disunited and discontinued cross-country tracks that were neither kept nor maintained by anyone. After months of negotiations the six centres of the Ore Mountains Club have managed to connect the ridges of the Ore Mountains by roughly 350 km of prepared cross-country tracks. They lead from the Lešná Centre on the boundary of Most and Chomutov regions over to Klíny, Dlouhá Louka, Bouřňák, Fojtovice and Telnice. Thus, one of the largest compact systems of cross-country tracks has come into existence, and what's more, it will be connected to the prepared ski tracks on the German side of the mountains.



The partners of the Ore Mountains Club aim not only to ensure optimal quality of the cross-country tracks but also to prepare common sports and cultural activities, a unified promotion of the Club and formation of an identical navigation system for tourists. In the coming years, visitors of each centre will be provided by complex services, dressing rooms, showers and common ski-hire facilities.

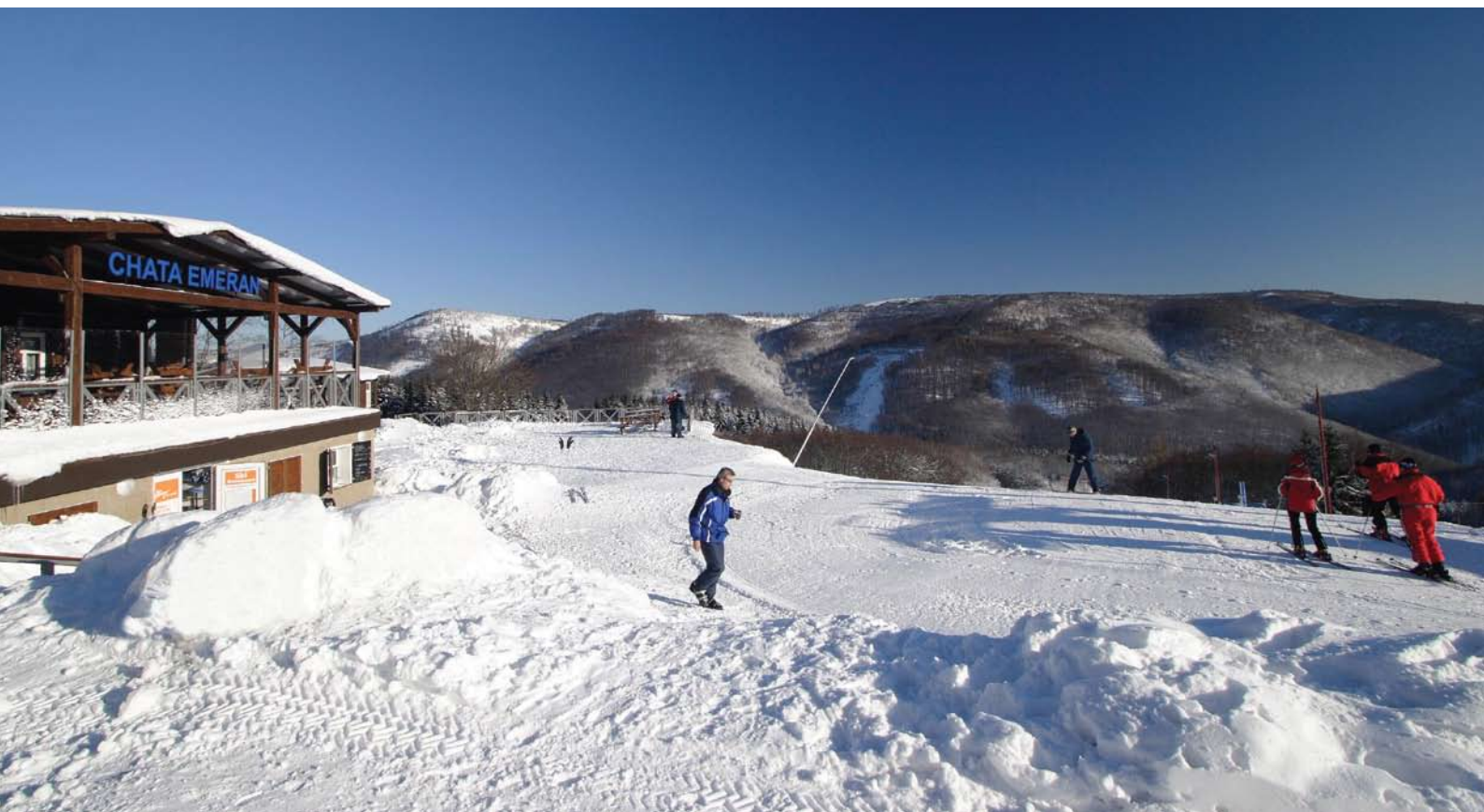
The associations consist of several organisations that are supported by both commercial subjects and adjoining towns. Chomutov, Jirkov, Boleboř, Vysoká Pec and Union of Municipalities Leseňská pláň support financially the Mountain Club Lesná. The town of Litvínov and municipality Klíny contribute to the Mount Club Litvínov and municipalities Osek, Duchcov and Bílina to the Ore Mountains Club. Sport Centre Bouřňák cooperates with the town of Dubí, Fojtovice with Krupka and SKI Club Telnice is supported by Ústí nad Labem and Telnice. The list is not exhausted by far; the cooperation goes on with clubs on the German side of the Ore Mountains.

The preparation of the cross-country tracks is fairly shared by all members of the association. The 55 km long leg of the tracks that



run right on the ridge of the Ore Mountains is kept by the Mountain Club Lesná. Their snow groomer Pisten Bully 100 is equipped with a special mechanism for the preparation of cross-country trails both for classical and free style. The centre itself offers its visitors many other supplementary activities – accommodation, a parking lot for 30 cars, a restaurant, ski hire facility (both cross-country skis and ski sets). During the summer there is a mountain bike rental, a multifunctional playground, horse and pony riding or hunting.

www.horskyhotellesna.cz



Next to Mount Club Lesná the visitors will find Sport Area Klíny where about 30 kilometres of tracks are maintained by the Mount Club Litvínov. The leg of well-kept tracks will lead from Nová Ves v Horách to the Fláje area. The quality of cross-country trails will be ensured by the technical equipment Pisten Bully 130 and a snow scooter with tracksetter. Fans of alpine skiing will find good conditions in this area, you can also try snow tubing, mountain scooters and Nordic Walking.

www.kliny.cz



Ore Mountains Club takes care of the leg of tracks from Dlouhé Louky over Beggars' Horn to Three Lords' Peak which is 55 kilometres long. The technical base of the association consists of a Pisten Bully 160, a four-wheeler Bombardier 650 and a snow scooter with tracksetter. Also this centre can offer accommodation, restaurant, parking lot for 30 cars and refreshment to its visitors.

www.krusnohorskyklub.cz

At the Three Lords' Peak the Ore Mountains Club meets another partner – Sport Centre Bouřňák. It continues with a fifty-kilometre-long track to Dubí over Nové Město, Moldava, Cínovec. The offer of



tourist services includes accommodation, a parking lot, refreshments, the alpine and cross-country ski rental, bikes, warming and dressing rooms for cross-country skiers. The tracks will be prepared by the snow groomer Pisten Bully 130 and a snow scooter.

www.scbournak.cz

At Cínovec begins the leg of tracks that are kept by the Civic association of the Fojtovice area, that takes care of 32 kilometres to Adolfov. The trails will be prepared by the snow groomer Avalanche. Visitors can use a parking place for 50 cars, accommodation, refreshments, a restaurant, and fans of horse riding and hippo therapy will find good facilities there.

www.fojtovice.cz



SKI Club Telnice is the last partner of the Ore Mountains Club. By preparing the 30 kilometres long track in Nakléřov this association finishes the whole White Track of Ore Mountains. The technical equipment consists of snow scooters, a snow groomer LEITNER 500 and a snow groomer PRINOTH with tracksetter which will enable preparation of cross-country trails for both the classical style and skating. Visitors will find a parking place for 400 cars, accommodation, restaurant and refreshment stands, a ski school and ski rental.

www.ski-telnice.cz

Activities of the club are not limited to winter sports. In the future, a Folk House of the Ore Mountains will be erected. The House will serve as a museum to depict the life of the mountain people that lived here more than 100 years ago. The club also plans to build a chapel that will be a true copy of the chapel pictured on photographic documents preserved from the 20th century. The Museums of Chomutov and Most cooperate in both projects. A multifunctional playground with artificial surface in Lesná Area can serve an example of what has already been finished.

The whole project White track of the Ore Mountains is supported by both private sector (owners of the centres, sponsors) and public sector (towns, municipalities, Ústí Region).

Ústí Region

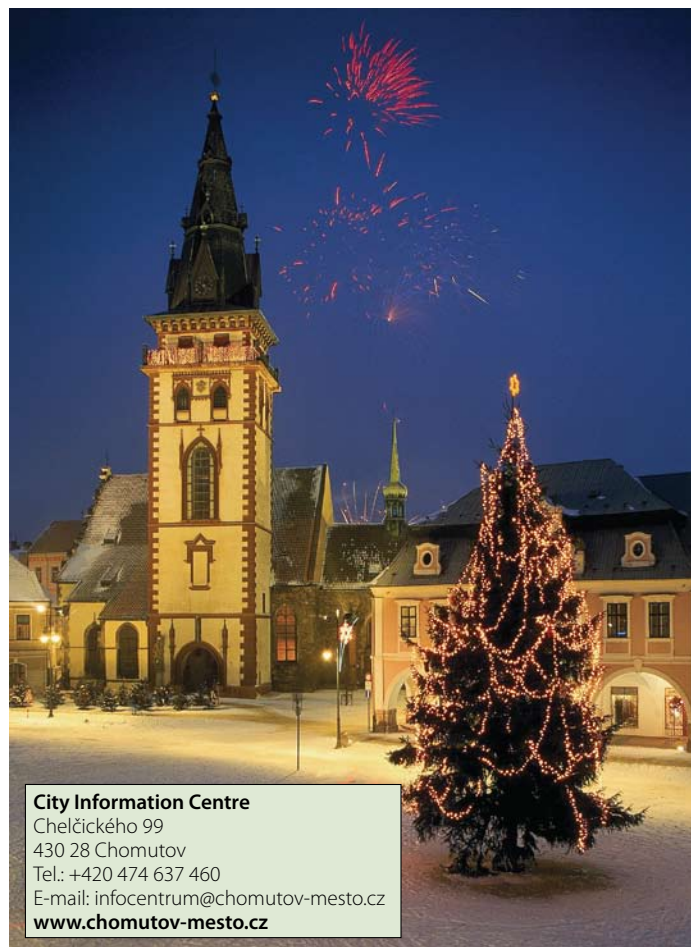
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E-mail: info@kr-ustecky.cz
www.kr-ustecky.cz

The Magic of Christmas in Chomutov

There are many reasons why you should visit the royal town of Chomutov during the whole year. If you are attracted by the unique historical centre, the Podkrušnohorský zoological park, the Kamencové Lake or the Bezuř Valley, in any case you will find your own points of interest. However, only once a year you can experience the atmosphere of the traditional Czech Christmas and Advent time.



December 2 – January 1	Bethlehem with living animals in the open-air museum Stará Ves – Podkrušnohorský zoological park
December 2, 9, 16, 23	Advent Sunday in the open-air museum Stará Ves – Podkrušnohorský zoological park
December 2, 9, 16, 23	Advent concerts – St. Ignatius Church (7 p.m.)
December 5	Lighting of the city's Christmas decoration (non-traditional puppet performance at the City Tower, fireworks) – May 1 Square (náměstí 1. května)
December 9	Chomutov Dancing Gala show and Big Prize of the City of Chomutov (performance by dancing schools and international B&M competition in standard and Latin-American dances) – City Theatre (2 p.m.)
December 10 - 23	Christmas Fair (sale of Christmas goods, Advent calendar, Post from Santa Claus, Local train Amálka rides) - May 1 Square (náměstí 1. května)
December 15 - 16, 22 - 23	Historical Christmas (Pilgrimage to Bethlehem) – May 1 Square (12 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
December 16 and 22	Christmas view from the City Tower (5 p.m. – 8 p.m.)
December 24	Living Bethlehem in the open-air museum Stará Ves – Podkrušnohorský zoological park
December 24	Czech Christmas Mass by Jakub Jan Ryba – St. Ignatius Church (12 p.m.)



City Information Centre

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430 28 Chomutov
Tel: +420 474 637 460
E-mail: infocentrum@chomutov-mesto.cz
www.chomutov-mesto.cz

Christmas in Ústí 2007



www.usti-nad-labem.cz

As every year in the past, also this year the Christmas in Ústí 2007 will be celebrated throughout December. Join us in opening the Christmas Fair at Peace Square (Mírové náměstí) on December 1, come to listen to the plenitude of Christmas concerts or just to enjoy the Saint Nicolas party with presents.

- December 1 Christmas Fair Opening Ceremony – Christmas in Ústí 2007, Peace Square
- December 2 Advent concert – Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary
- December 5 Saint Nicolas Show for children and adults - Peace Square (Mírové náměstí)
- December 11 Walachia Christmas – the ensemble Fleret + Jarmila Šuláková – National House
- December 13 Christmas saloon of the ensemble Fešáci and their guests – Culture House
- December 17 Christmas concert of the North Bohemian string quartet “The best of classics” – North Bohemian Theatre of Opera and Ballet
- December 20 Pig-slaughtering feast in Ústí – Peace Square (Mírové náměstí)
- December 21 Bethlehem light - Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary,



More information about the planned events can be obtained in the Information centre of Ústí nad Labem.
Tel: +420 475 220 233
E-mail: info.stredisko@mag-ul.cz
www.usti-nad-labem.cz

Christmas in Litvínov

We invite you to Litvínov to celebrate the traditional Christmas in the Krušné Mountains. In the Advent time you can choose out of the rich cultural programme which can be extended with sports activities in the nearby Krušné Mountains. Ski areas in Klíny, Český Jiřetín, Saint Katarina Mountain and in Meziborí offer quality alpine slopes and cross-country tracks.



Programme

15. 11.– 19. 12.	Gallery Radniční sklípek - exhibitions Pictures of Karel Franta Christmas at the loft – inspiration for the Christmas tree decoration
5. 12.	Devils' Dance at the Square (Peace Square) – parade of the St. Nicolas retinues. We invite you to participate in the competition for the most numerous retinue, for the most spooky devil, the most beautiful angel and the most dignified St. Nicolas.
14. 12.	Christmas Historical Fair (Christmas market)
14. 12.	Miner's Parade - parade in historical costumes with the participation from the twin towns Seiften and Olbernau. The parade starts at 4 p.m. from the Castle Park through its yard down to the square
15. 12.	Christmas Historical Fair (the Castle yard) Angels - the Advent apparition of angels dancing on stilts, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Peace Square) Blaze – blazing dancing and flying three-metre long objects, 5 p.m. (Peace Square)
26. 12.	Czech Christmas Mass – J. J. Ryba (Church of St. Michael Archangel)
31. 12.	Family New Year's Eve – performance of Michal Nesvadba and Julián Záhorovský, at 5 p. m. fireworks



The project is supported from the Fond for small project within the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA

Municipal Office Litvínov

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IC INTUS, Tel.: +420 476 111 790
www.mulitvinov.cz

Christmas Events in Litoměřice Region

The cultural calendar of the town Litoměřice has become a demanding and extensive reading in the last years. But it is a good news for those who decide to visit the town without foregoing planning. In Litoměřice and the nearby vicinity you can visit many interesting events in almost every weekend, and this holds twice during the Advent time.

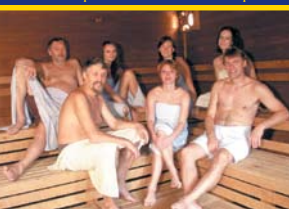


December 5	Christmas Tree Lighting (Litoměřice, Peace Square – Mírové nám.) at 4 p.m., The Most Beautiful Masque Contest, fireworks in the end of the ceremony.
December 8 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Christmas Fair (Camp hill České Kopisty), cultural program
December 14 to 22	Christmas Market (Peace Square - Mírové náměstí, Litoměřice), www.zahrada.cech.cz , tel.: 416 732 863
December 15 to 16	Castle Interiors and Christmas (Ploskovice Castle)
December 15 10 a.m. to 5 p.m	Advent in Úštěk – Christmas fair (Úštěk) with the arrival of living angels from the church, historical music and other spectacles
December 15 - 16	Christmas in the Open-air Museum (Zubrnice), Christmas customs, decoration, www.zubrnice.cz
December 15	Czech Christmas Mass by J. J. Ryba (Museum of the Czech Garnet, Třebenice) beginning at 5 p.m., entrance fee 120,- CZK, children 60,- CZK, www.mesto-trebenice.cz
December 15 at 8 p.m.	Christmas Concert (Litoměřice, Baronka Live Music, Lidická Street) The Carve, Head Line, Snow in the Staircase, Pan-K.
December 22	Christmas Concert (Litoměřice, Cathedral of St. Stephan)
Town Information Centre	
Mírové nám. 15/7 412 01 Litoměřice	Tel. +420 416 732 440 E-mail: info@litomerice.cz www.litomerice.cz

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AQUAPARK – the only themed water paradise in the Czech Republic



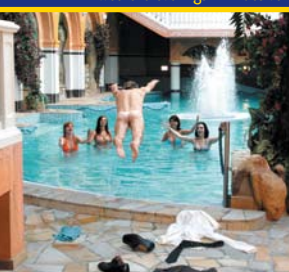
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The above-mentioned offers are just a few examples of how you can spend your stay in Centrum Babylon. More detailed information on offered services at www.BabylonLiberec.cz

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RELAX FOR TWO

Price for two persons: CZK 3 990

Two-day stay in the four-star Babylon Wellness hotel (one night in a two-bed room), half-board buffet, open-ended stay in the health Centre, Aquapark, 1x treatment in the saline iodine cave, 1x treatment on the relaxation beds with massage, Lunapark and iQpark visit. Dressing gown for the whole time of your stay available. Report at the reception desk from Sunday to Thursday.

HONEYMOON STAY

Price: CZK 9 990

Three-day stay - 2x accommodation in a ensuite room, including a bathtub. Breakfast is brought to the room, 1x buffet dinner, 1x bottle of Bohemia sect and fruits served in the room, dressing gown available for the whole time of your stay, you can leave the room later till 14:00. On top of that free and open-ended entry to health facilities, Aquapark, iQpark and Lunapark. Every day bowling till 12:00, 1x treatment in the saline iodine cave.

RELAXED WEEK

Price: CZK 9 950

Six-day stay - 5x accommodation with half-board buffet, free and open-ended entry to health facilities, Aquapark, iQpark and Lunapark. Every morning fitness swimming and till 12:00 bowling free available, 1x treatment in the saline iodine cave, 1x treatment on the relaxation beds with massage, free entry to ZOO Liberec, dressing gown available for the whole time of your stay. Report at the reception desk on Sunday.

PROLONGED WEEKEND

Price: CZK 5 750

Four-day stay - 3x accommodation with half-board buffet, free and open-ended entry to health facilities, Aquapark, iQpark and Lunapark. Morning fitness swimming and till 12:00 bowling free available, 1x treatment in the saline iodine cave, 1x treatment on the relax beds with massage, dressing gown available for the whole time of your stay. Report at the reception desk on Friday.

HAPPY DAY One-day trip – main entertainment attractions of CENTRUM BABYLON with a remarkable discount. Open-ended stay in the Aquapark, Lunapark, iQpark and in the Labyrinth, as well as a visit of the virtual reality and laser game. Price of this offer for adults CZK 530, for children up to 140 cm CZK 360.

Children up to 100 cm tall FREE ENTRY.



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LASER GAME - combat game in a dark labyrinth



State Castle of Sychrov

This castle, unique in so many ways, beautiful and easily accessible, belongs to our most visited sights. The baroque castle was erected in the end of the 17th century in the place of the original fort which was built by the knight Lamotte of Frintropp. After 1820, the castle was gradually redeveloped into a representative mansion. In the 1990's a grand reconstruction and restoration of the exteriors, interiors and the castle park was started. It aims to achieve the appearance of the castle in its best times in the second half of the 19th century.



The basic Sightseeing Route – takes visitors to the authentic castle interiors that were reconstructed to the romantic neo-Gothic style (i.e. the style of the second half of the 19th century) in accordance with the preserved archive materials.

Treasure House – presents jewels and sculptures of precious metals and stones that were dedicated to the Czech Republic by Mr František Khyňl, a native of Turnov.

The Castle Aquarium – the exposition in the castle cellar focuses mainly on fish from the nearby rivers Jizera and Mohelka. The exhibition “Glass, metal – Miroslav Liederhaus” is a part of this exposition.

Night sightseeing of the Castle – throughout the year after agreement.

Contest:

If you know which noble family had the castle in its possession as the last one, for how long and where it came from, you can send us your answers to the editorial office's address before December 18 or by e-mail to kam@baset.cz. We will reward five correct answers with a book which you will receive – if the post allows – under the Christmas tree.



December Events at the Castle

Advent Fair – the Court of Honour

December 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Markets connected with displays of traditional crafts and sale of goods.

The accompanying program – “Bohém” art ensemble

The entrance fee: adults: 40,- CZK, children: 20,- CZK

Christmas Concert – the Castle Chapel

December 26 at 4 p.m.

Interpreters: soprano Vendula Pouzdrová, organ Jiří Chlum

Entrance fee: flat-rate 100,- CZK

The concert is sponsored by REKUPER SYCHROV, s.r.o.



The castle is accessible for the public daily including Mondays.

State Castle of Sychrov

Sychrov 1, 463 44 Sychrov

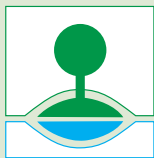
Tel.: +420 482 416 011

E-mail: info@zamek-sychrov.cz

www.zamek-sychrov.cz

On Cross-country Skis in the Orlicko Region

A good standard of services is one of the necessary prerequisites for life in the countryside. It strengthens the locality's attractiveness, so people don't only like to go there, but they also come back again. The Orlicko Region is situated alongside the upper parts of rivers Divoká (Wild) Orlice and Tichá (Quiet) Orlice, in the north-eastern part of the Pardubice region near the border with Poland. It excels in natural beauties given by segmentation of the terrain, a high percentage of forests, a low rate of settlement and the almost untouched nature.



Paradoxically enough, the fact that the Orlicko Region was – as a border area – affected by the expulsion of the original population after the Second World War, plays a certain role. As you will find out yourself, this is a mountainous and a foothilly terrain with less favourable climate conditions and reduced transport accessibility. Its clear advantage, however, lies in the fact that human activities have left the landscape almost untouched. All the things that we already have said about the Orlicko Region have great importance for the development of tourism. This region is suitable



for summer holidays (bike tourism, sights, active sports and others) and for winter holidays (ski areas, cross-country trails prepared by machines). A system of pre-war fortifications in the Krállická area is another unique and very significant phenomenon of this region.

Why just one-day and two-day trips on cross-country skis in the Orlicko Region?

The region offers more than 100 kilometres of prepared cross-country trails.

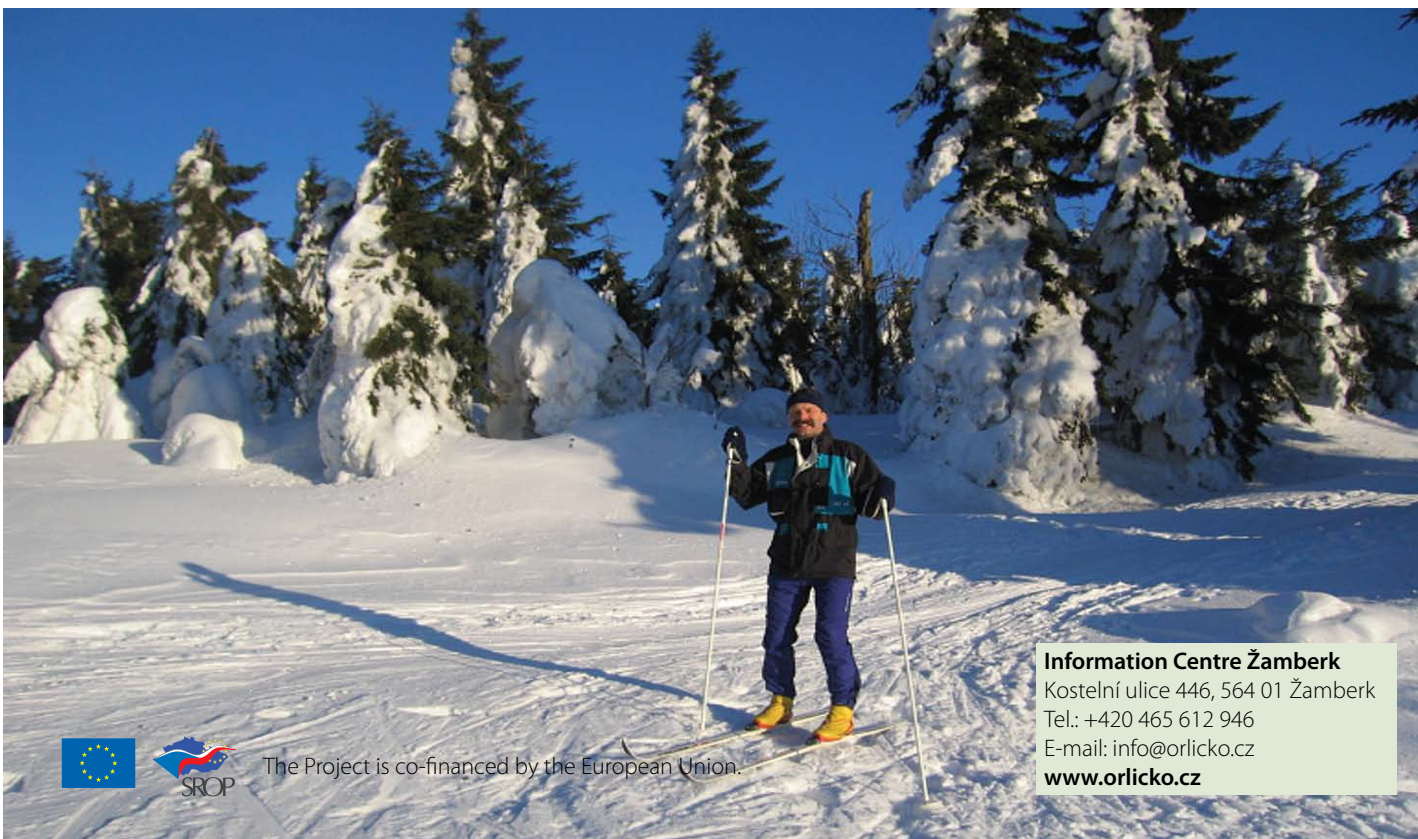
We have ten trips with accommodation and food offers for you.

You can combine the stay with other activities (cross-country skiing, alpine skiing).

Cross-country tracks lead to Poland in the frames of cross-border co-operation.

Contest:

Do you know what the name of the town Vamberk was one hundred years ago? If you do, send us your answers to our editorial's office address or by mail to kam@baset.cz. Three correct answers will be rewarded with a T-shirt donated by the Association of Orlicko Municipalities.



Information Centre Žamberk

Kostelní ulice 446, 564 01 Žamberk

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E-mail: info@orlicko.cz

www.orlicko.cz



The Project is co-financed by the European Union.

Six Gates Lead to us

The picturesque landscape of the Eagle Mountains (Orlické hory) invites to active relaxation and pleasant lazing. Ardent fans of winter pleasures are attracted not only by well kept slopes but also by cross-country tracks. You can enter the fairytale kingdom of our mountains through several gates.



You can find them spread on the map as small beads that have rolled away from the necklace of their mistress Kate. Dobruška, Nové Město nad Metují, Opočno, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Rokytnice v Orlických horách and Žamberk are not only the entrance gates but also places where the history paced and where it is pleasant to stop by and take a view. The people, who live here, are fond of their town and they will be happy to take you around.



Let's start with Dobruška. Did you know that a great Czech revivalist, František Ladislav Hek, was born here? You can visit his native house. Or what about Nové Město nad Metují, with a square surrounded by Renaissance arcades and uncommonly well-preserved rests of town ramparts? On the other side of the castle park in Opočno is another place you must visit. You will understand why. Besides that, the city of Rychnov nad Kněžnou, which next year will celebrate its 750 year anniversary although it looks far younger, is a modern pulsing city that offers everything what a tourist can wish. The advantage of Rokytnice v Orlických horách lies in an excellent accessibility by car, but also by bus, train or by ski bus during weekends. The last gate of the Eagle Mountains is Žamberk, a town that lures lovers of alpine and cross-country skiing throughout the year but especially in winter.

The Eagle Mountains always prepare something new for their visitors. That goes also for the last month of this year. Besides prepared skiing slopes, cross-country tracks, hotels, guest houses and private accommodation you can find many pre-Christmas events. Christmas fairs and markets, historical family cribs or Christmas concerts, it is only a fragment of what you can find here.



Contest:

Do you know how the governor of the Eagle Mountains, Rampušák, came into existence? If you do, send us your answers to the editor's office address or by mail to kam@baset.cz before December 18. If the post office allows, three of you will receive an interesting book under the Christmas tree from us.



www.rychnov-city.cz
www.rokytnice.cz
www.rychnovsko.cz
www.orlicko.cz
www.zamberk.cz
www.orlickehory.net



Pre-Christmas Stroll around České Budějovice

St. Martin arrived in the city already on November 11. Although he did not stay for long he fulfilled his obligation with respect to the old Czech saying [that the first snow should fall on St. Martin's day]. As if he anticipated that this year's Christmas in České Budějovice will be a real festival of everything that belongs to Christmas. Do you find it hard to believe? May this will convince you...



From Saturday December 1 when the lord mayor will strike lights on the Christmas tree on Přemysl Otakar II Square, the events will follow one after another. The Christmas Bell Parade, concerts, exhibitions, folklore, jazz, rock and gospel, handicraft and fish markets, traditional specialities of our grandmas, Christmas Carols, the living crib – this is only a small listing of Advent events in Budějovice. However, if we can give you a recommendation, on St. Nicolas' Eve we will arrange The Angel's arrival from the Black Tower for both children and adults, and before that you can take an afternoon St. Nicolas' ride with a historical trolleybus.



The Meat Shops will come back to life again during Christmas

After years of reconstruction the legend of the town - the Meat Shops - will again shine in beauty. From December 7 you can taste a broad offer of Czech culinary specialities as for instance Potato Soup a la Lords of Rožmberk, Skewer of Přemysl Otakar II, or a drink this town cannot be thought apart from – Budvar from Budějovice.

Skating on the Square

The municipal authorities, with financial support from the ČEZ Group, arranged a big surprise for citizens and visitors of the town. On Přemysl Otakar II Square they installed an ice rink of 20 x 30 metres for lovers of winter pleasures. Hence, if you like skating come and join us. It will be open every day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. starting on St. Nicolas Day through to Three Kings Day.

If you would like to get more information please don't hesitate to contact our information centre.

Tourist Information Centre of České Budějovice

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České Budějovice
Tel.: +420 386 801 413,
Tel./Fax: +420 386 801 414
E-mail: infocb@c-budejovice.cz
www.c-budejovice.cz

Klatovy in the Advent Time



December 9 and 16 / 4 p.m.	Cultural House Družba We Sing and Dance – performance of ensembles from Klatovy elementary schools
December 17 / 7 p.m.	The Church of Czechoslovak Hussites Concert – students of the Musical School Klatovy will perform
1 December 18 / 7.30 p.m.	Theatre Klatovy Christmas concert of the „Šumavan“ choir
December 20 / 6 p.m.	Archdeacon's Church (at the White Tower) Christmas concert of the „Zpěvulky“ choir.
December 22 / 6 p.m.	The Church of Czechoslovak Hussites Christmas concert of the „Zebedeus“ vocal-instrumental group
18 - 21 / 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	December Klatovy Square Performance of choirs from preschools, elementary schools, the music school and the Šumavánek ensemble
December 18 - 21	Klatovy Square Christmas Handicraft Market

**We invite you for
the New Year's Eve
midnight fireworks at
Klatovy Square.**

Information Centre of the city of Klatovy
nám. Míru 63, Klatovy I
tel.: +420 376 347 250, 376 347 240
e-mail: icklatovy@mukt.cz
www.mukt.cz

Vimperk – at the Edge of the Boubín Forest

A picturesque town in the south of Bohemia, rightly called "Šumava's Gate" or a town at the edge of the Boubín forest, became renowned thanks to its glass industry and book printing. Today it is a sought-after tourist target and that's not only in the summer season but still more often during the winter. If you visit this town in the last month of the year you will find it beautifully dressed in the Christmas atmosphere.



We cordially invite you to...

Christmas Tree Lighting
on December 1

Christmas Markets
on December 8

New Year's Eve Rides
on December 31

Tourist Information Centre Vimperk

Náměstí Svobody 42
385 01 Vimperk
Tel.: +420 388 411 894
Fax: +420 388 414 822
E-mail: infocentrum@mesto.vimperk.cz
www.info.vimperk.cz



© foto Jan Plánek

Walks through Prague in the Last Month of the Year

December 5, Wednesday

How is the Prague Bambino dressed in the Advent time?

Come to hear a history lecture about the Church of Our Lady of Victory and its world famous statue. The event begins at 2:45 p.m. in Karmelická Street in front of the entrance to the church. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: Eva Sokolová).

December 16, Sunday

The Advent walk through the Old Town with a visit of the crib exposition in the Bethlehem chapel.

The event begins at 2 p.m. in front of the Bethlehem chapel. Entrance fee 50 CZK + entrance fee for the exhibition 25 CZK (contact person: PhDr. Jiřina Chrástilová).

December 16, Sunday

Vyšehrad

A comprehensive sightseeing including casemates. The event starts at 2 p.m. in front of the St Peter and Paul's Church. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: guide of the PIS).

December 17, Monday

Prague in the Winter and Christmas Time

A short look into the past. The lecture takes place at 5 p.m. in the Hall of Prague Information Service, Arbesovo Square 4, Prague 5. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: PhDr. Eva Havlovcová).

December 23, Sunday

A traditional walk through the Prague Castle in the eve of the year's most beautiful season

The beginning of the event at 3 p.m. by the T.G. Masaryk statue at Hradčanské Square. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: Eva Sokolová).

December 26, Wednesday

Cribs in the Church of the Holy Virgin Angel by the Capuchin monastery

The sightseeing is connected with a walk around the neighbouring area. The event begins at 10 a.m. in front of the church in Loretta Square. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: Ing. Bohumil Kocourek).

December 30, Sunday

The crib exhibition in the Church of Our Lady of Unceasing Succour in Nerudova Street

Connected with a lecture on the building's history and a walk in the neighbouring area plus a visit to some nearby churches. The event begins at 2 p.m. in front of the church in Nerudova Street. Entrance fee 50 CZK + entrance fee for the exhibition ca. 20 CZK (contact person: Mgr. Jaroslava Náprstková).

December 31, Monday

Ghosts in the Streets of Prague

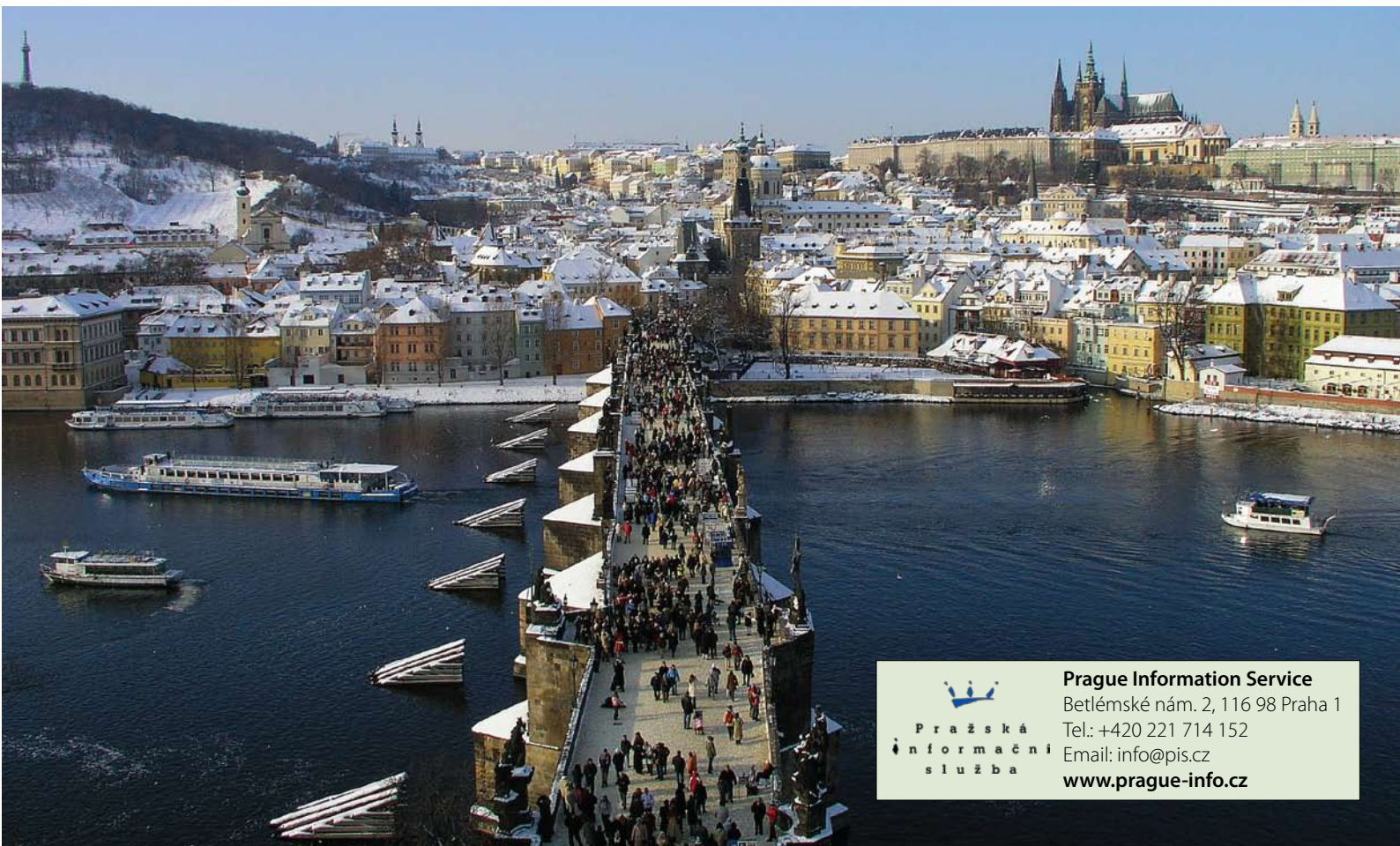
The traditional New Year's Eve walk. The event begins at 6 p.m. by the Bridge Towers of Lesser Town. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: Marie Breníková).

Ghosts in the Streets of Prague - the traditional New Year's Eve walk. The event begins at 6 p.m. by the Bethlehem chapel. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: Ing. Bohumil Kocourek).

January 1, Tuesday

The traditional New Year's climbing of the Petřín Hill

We will walk to the top of one of Prague's dominants. The event begins at 2 p.m. by the lower funicular station at Újezd. Entrance fee 50 CZK (contact person: Ing. Bohumil Kocourek).



Last Month of this Year in Brno

You can visit Brno in any season during the whole year and you will enjoy it. That goes twice if you stop by during the Advent time. By that time Brno flourishes with a variety of events, in addition to Christmas shopping and all the season's rush. Besides Christmas markets, concerts, theatre performances and many other events, there are many places where you can find peace for undisturbed contemplation.

B | R | N | O

Lighting of Těsnohlídek's Christmas Tree

November 30 – December 31 – Freedom Square (náměstí Svobody)
This tree makes us remember Rudolf Těsnohlídek who was the founder of the Christmas humanitarian aid to abandoned and needy children. The lighting celebration will take place on November 30 at 5 p.m. and the tree will be lit up until the New Year. The possibility to visit the festively decorated Brno will be there for all interested visitors until December 24. Children ensembles will perform daily while the evenings will be devoted to performances of popular artists.

Jakub Jan Ryba – Czech Christmas Mass

December 2 – 23 – Mahen Theatre
The scenic performance of the most famous Czech Christmas mass in the beautiful surroundings of the Mahen Theatre is a joint Christmas gift from the National Theatre's ensembles. The crib, Bethlehem, Three kings and the Jesus child will come to life on the stage.
Time: December 2, 9, 16 at 5 p.m., December 23 beginnings always at 10:30 a.m.



Christmas Markets

December 1 – 24 – Freedom Square (náměstí Svobody)
The Christmas fair will offer dozens of folk arts products, either of wood, glass, ceramics, metal or leather and also many goodies. Neither pig-slaughter specialities, hot punch nor mead will be missing. In the Christmas workshop children can try their talents and skills for painting and production of own simple works. Moreover, a Christmas post office will be prepared for children who would like to write or draw their own wishes and send them to Santa Clause.

Bethlehem light in Brno

December 16 at 11 a.m. in front of the St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral
The Bethlehem light will be handed over to the hands of Bishop Vojtěch Cikrle in a sacrificial procession during mass on Sunday December 16 at 9 a.m. in the St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral. Those interested can obtain the light in front of the cathedral until 11 a.m. On Saturday December 22 the trains with couriers and the Bethlehem light will set for all parts of the country. On December 23 the light will be handed over to the public at the City Hall as a part of the event "Christmas at the City Hall". For details see www.betlemske-svetlo.sky.cz.

New Year's Eve in the Opera 2007 – 2008

December 31 from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. – the foyer of the Janáček Theatre
In the rhythm of operetta melodies you can literally dance into the New Year. Tunes performed by Salon Orchestra Brno, Beladona Quartet and Tango Milonguero will please both dancers and music lovers. A festive New Year's dinner, a midnight toast, a rich buffet, tombola and fireworks will not be missing. Advance sale of the entrance tickets: NDB Dvořákova 11, tel.: 542 158 183-4.



Information Centre of the City of Brno
Radnická 8, 602 00 Brno
tel.: + 420 542 211 089 - 090
E-mail: info@ticbrno.cz
www.ticbrno.cz



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