



Next Station Spring!



Easter or Legal Whipping
In the Landscape of the Czech Central Mountains
Bicycle Survived the Century

Ústí Region, the Gateway to Bohemia



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The Castle in the Heart of Děčín

Terezín Memorial



www.kr-ustecky.cz

Dear readers,

Spring is approaching slowly but surely. Before we would expect it, the first spring day will be here. Days will get longer and nights shorter, everything will grow green, birds will start to sing; the first flowers will stick their heads out and the sun will spread warm beams and give us the right tan after the long winter period.

Of course, when spring comes we throw off winter anoraks and coats and in that moment we realize that we have put on a kilo or two, so the spring jacket doesn't fit as it should. That's why our first steps lead to the fitness centre or the gym where we desperately try to reduce the extra weight as quickly as possible. Sometimes it is easy, sometimes not. My advice is: allow yourself one-week purification treatment, combined with light motion. Omit everything fat, salty and sweet from your menu. Rather consume vegetable or fruit salads and fresh water instead of beer. Do some exercises during the day or go for a longer walk. You will see that your weight will go down.

The spring's arrival also signals that the beginning of the tourist season, which many of us are impatiently waiting for, is getting near. We hide our winter clothes, alpine and cross-country skis, sledges, bobsleighs and other winter equipment. Conversely we pull out bikes, hiking boots and back-packs. However, before you set off for a ride you should check, adjust and oil your bike, which has been gathering dust during the whole winter. There is a Czech saying that goes "who greases, he goes". Well, there is something about it. Don't forget to dress warmly because the weather in March is rather deceitful, and occasionally you can't even rule out the possibility of frost.

In that connection, I shouldn't remind you that this year's spring holiday, Easter, falls on March. Everywhere in the world Easter is celebrated differently. As the saying goes - "So many countries, so many customs". In England, for example, children go from house to house carolling for eggs, while in Australia children look for eggs that the Easter rabbit has hidden in the garden. And in our country boys carol and whip girls with an Easter stick made of wicker, to wish them health for the whole year. For their Easter carolling they receive an egg. So to get to the conclusion: Try to survive the rest of the winter with your health intact, put yourselves in spring mood and definitely don't permit any spring tiredness.

Martina Štěpánková



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Tourist magazine Travel EYE, March 2008

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Registered: MK ČR E 17866, ISSN 1802-8659

Graphic design and layout: Jarmil Dufek

Printed: H.R.G. spol. s r.o. in Litomyšl

Photo on the title page: © Agentura CzechTourism

The publisher is not responsible for the contents of adverts and PR articles.

Strolls in Early Spring Prague

Maisel Synagogue Sightseeing (Sunday, March 2)

History of the Jewish population in Bohemia and Moravia from their arrival until Maria Theresia's reign. The event starts at 2 pm in front of the Maisel Synagogue. Fee 50 Kč + entrance fee to the synagogue (Mgr. Zuzana Tlášková).

National Theatre (Saturday, March 8)

Complete sightseeing. The event starts every half hour from 8.30 am to 11 am in front of the entrance. Reserved groups will have preference (group reservation minimum 15 persons).

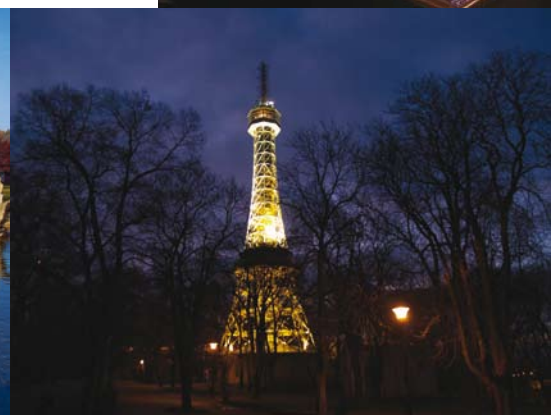
WARNING – the maximum number of participants in a group is 50 persons. Please respect this regulation, which is demanded by the National Theatre Administration. Entrance fee 50 Kč (PIS guides).

Cathedral of St. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert (Sunday, March 16)

The last resting place of patrons, monarchs and other significant personalities. The event starts at 1:30 pm in front of the main, western entrance to the cathedral. Fee 50 Kč + entrance fee to the cathedral which is temporarily free of charge but that can be changed (Mgr. Jaroslava Náprstková, PhDr. Eva Havlovcová).



- i PIS Information Centres**
- Old Town Hall**
Staroměstské náměstí 1, 110 00 Praha 1
 - Main Railway Station**
Wilsonova 8, 120 06 Praha 2
 - Lesser Town Bridge Tower**
110 00 Praha 1 - Malá Strana
 - Rytířská Street 31**
110 00 Praha 1



Easter Walk – Kinský Gardens, sightseeing of Musaion (Sunday, March 23)

The event starts at 2 pm in front of the entrance to the gardens from Kinský Square (Smíchov). Fee 50 Kč + entrance fee to the expositions (PhDr. Jiřina Chrastilová)

Crossing of the Vítkov Hill (Saturday, March 29)

The event starts at 2 pm in front of Hotel Vítkov. Fee 50 Kč (Božena Švejnohová).

The walks take place when minimum 10 and maximum 80 participants meet in one group (unless otherwise indicated). First comers are prioritised.

You can order guides for school groups, travel agency groups etc.

PIS administered monuments accessible in March

Old Town Hall

Daily: Mo 11 am – 6 pm; Tue – Sun 9 am – 6 pm

Old Town Bridge Tower

Daily 10 am – 6 pm, film “Charles Bridge – a Ray through Centuries”

Lesser Town Bridge Tower

From March 14 daily 10 am – 6 pm “On the bridge about the bridge”

Powder Tower

Form March 154 daily 10 am – 6 pm “The King’s Court”

Labyrinth on the Petřín Hill

From March 14 daily 10 am - 5 pm

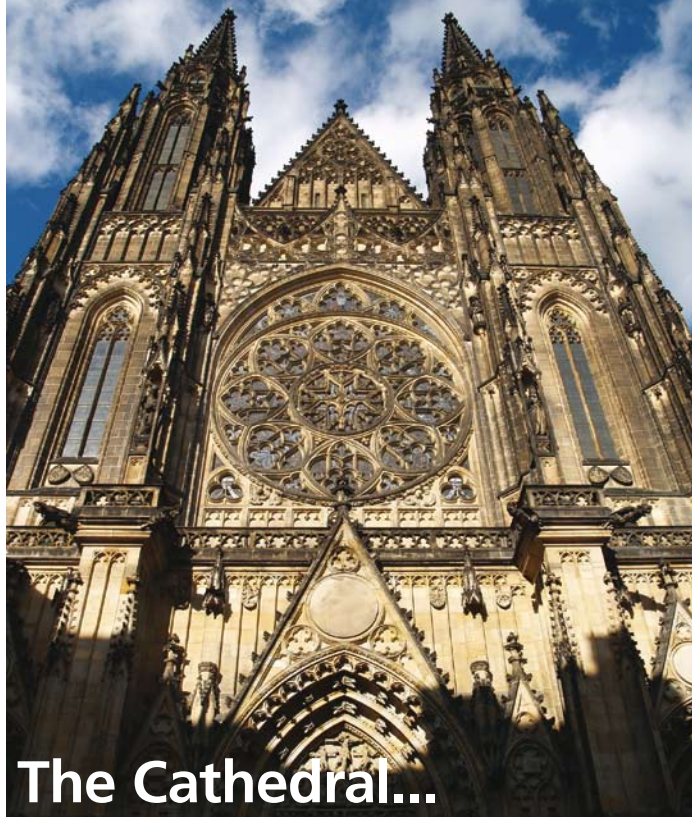
Petřín View Tower

From March 14 daily 10 am - 5 pm “Jára Cimrman – a genius that didn’t become famous”



i Prague Information Centre

Headquarters: Betlémské nám. 2,
116 98 Praha 1
General Information: Mo–Fri 8 am–7 pm
Tel.: 12 444; +420 221 714 444
E-mail: tourinfo@pis.cz; uts@pis.cz
www.prague-info.cz
www.pis.cz



The Cathedral...

In one famous Czech folk song the St. Vitus church is called "our Gothic pride". We can certainly agree with this, and what's more, the cathedral means something sacred to many of us, though we are non-believers. You might ask why they sing about a church, when it in reality is a cathedral? The reason is actually that it is difficult to sing the word "cathedral", and also that the bishop's cathedra is situated in the cathedral's sacristy. That's how the denomination "cathedral" appeared.

You might not know that in the decree issued in 1997, the building was given the title "the Cathedral of St. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert, and it is consecrated to these three patrons. Saint Vitus came from Sicily and he died as a martyr sometime around 303 AD. The cathedral is also consecrated to St. Wenceslas, for well-known reasons, and perhaps also because in 925 AD he founded the St. Vitus Rotunda at the location of today's Prague Castle. St. Wenceslas was motivated to that because he obtained a precious saint relic (a bone of St. Vitus' arm) from Emperor Henry I the Fowler. And finally, the cathedral is consecrated to Saint Adalbert due to the fact that he was not only the second Czech bishop but he also died while executing his profession, i.e. during his mission to Poland. His remains were buried at the Castle in the rotunda's extension in 1039. The mentioned rotunda was destroyed on the order of Spytihněv II., who let build the Basilica of St. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert on its place in 1060. And in 1344, right in this location, Charles IV jointly with his father John of Luxembourg founded the famous and magnificent cathedral.



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The cathedral has from time immemorial been followed very cautiously by the public, and therefore everything that is undertaken here is perceived very sensitively. After years of strict rules and regulated attendance a more "liberal attitude" was introduced, which led to a certain "devaluation" of the cathedral. Nevertheless, in 2008 the control of the visitors to the cathedral will again be the responsibility of the Prague Castle Administration. Therefore I asked PhDr. Fratišek Kadlec, director of the Tourist Movement department of Prague Castle Administration, some questions, because he is one of the most competent persons in this respect.

"How will the cathedral be operated in the coming season?" The cathedral's visitors are subjected to the same conditions as in the case of other sightseeing objects of the Castle. In the winter season (November-March) it is open from 9 am to 4 pm, in the summer season (April-October) from 9 am to 6 pm. The cathedral's main tower is open only during the summer season. Entrance to the cathedral is free of charge. In the time of regular Sunday masses the church is open from 12 am.

"What kind of restrictions can visitors expect in connection with religious services, taking photos or entrance fees?" Masses are held regularly on Sunday mornings and on church holidays. Taking photographs in the church is allowed only after buying a license. However, the use of flash and stand is not allowed.

"What can the Prague Castle Guide Service offer?" The Prague Castle Guide Service offers interested visitors guided tours in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian and Czech. Guides can be reserved in the information centres daily except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays on the telephone number 224 373 368 or 224 372 415. Besides traditional guides visitors can take advantage of audio guides that are also available in information centres. The sightseeing of the cathedral is also a part of a new DVD - Prague Castle Step by Step - which can be obtained in all the shops of the Prague Castle.

"What events do you prepare for this year?" In connection with the exhibition of the crown jewels (April 2008) a newly edited book - Czech Crown Jewels - will be published. The exhibition programme of the Prague Castle Administration includes several extraordinary events for this year: Biedermeier and Culture in the Czech lands (May - September), Slovakian Modern Art (October - March 2009), František Vlášil (February - May), Clocks and Watches (October - January 2009), A Prague Pedestrian: Jiří Všečeka (March - August), Prague Castle and the Czechoslovak Presidents 1918 - 1948 (October - March 2009)

-lgs-

Prague Castle Administration
www.hrad.cz

Easter or Legal Whipping

It will be a massacre again. Year 2008 is a leap year which many of us won't notice except for the fact that February will be unnaturally long and Easter Monday will be in a spirit of gender alignment.

When Julius Caesar spent dreamless nights thinking out a perfect calendar to finally take over the Egyptian one, it didn't certainly occur to him that we, our western civilisation and heirs of the Roman Empire, will bear the consequences of his invention in such a bizarre way. In Egypt it is different – the Christian Easter leaves everybody calm and emancipation attempts in the field of traditions don't score much success.

As a child I didn't like Easter. I didn't enjoy looking for willows, my Easter stick of wicker was the worst in the village and I was afraid of strangers in such a degree that even the acquired egg didn't compensate the stress, not mentioning the decorated Easter eggs ("kraslice") – they used to be wasted by their not-blown co-mates in the basket.

Back to the topic. The year was 1988 and although I was very young I already knew what Easter meant. Since Good Friday I had a stick of wicker hidden in our garage (you can't well get the willow wicker during the Easter week-end anywhere...). But what my surprise was when I was woken in the morning and flogged by my cousin. Something was wrong so I ran to my mummy but there I didn't find any consolation, just another whipping.

After twenty years when I write this article I decided to search in various sources to find out why it is ladies who hold Easter sticks in a leap year and give back to their men the whipping from the three preceding years. What do you think? I didn't find it out. This tradition is throughout oral, taken over among women in generations, but I don't know any man who would endorse it, which is quite understandable.

The conclusion: don't believe everything what is said, dear men. Easter Monday and Easter stick traditions belong to us even in the leap year and for ladies it is actually good news as well – the more Easter whipping you get, the later you will dry out, isn't that correct?

Happy Easter!

Michael Švec



Drawing: Marta Krátká



Readers' feedback of: 05. 02. 2008 - 17:34
Dear Editorial House. TravelEYE is a perfect geography and history textbook. I've got children aged 9, 12 and 14 years, and all of them can find something of interest in your magazine. Last Sunday we even had to go to Kampa, but unfortunately we didn't see the Waterman. Maybe next time. We wish good luck!

I have good news for you. As I learned from Mr Waterhouse, Mr Frog and Mr Tench from Vltava Watershed Association, the Waterman's short-term absence was caused by his winter-sleep. But already from March you can look forward to possible meetings with him in the neighbourhood of Čertovka.



Comment as of: 28. 01. 2008 / 12:02:53

I would like to express my thanks to the authors of the publication "Czech Curiosities or With One Foot in Heaven". This year I once again participated at the REGIONTOUR fair in Brno. Here, I found this thin book, which immediately drew my attention. I come from the Rychnovsko area and I know the local region well, at least I thought I did. Thanks to your brochure I learned a lot of new things about Kostelec nad Orlicí, Potštejn, Přestavky and about my beloved place – Homole, which is both mysterious and charming – I recommend all of you to come and see it! You will find a place full of tranquillity and peace. I am convinced that the brochure will be useful for all tourists who long to discover beautiful places in our Czech motherland. If it is just a little possible, please give us more information about the beauties of our country. I would be very happy if they could visit our Podorlicko region to see "Kathy's Fairyland". Because also here the nature is very beautiful, with many architectural jewels of folk architecture.

Author: JaroslavaKaplanova@seznam.cz

The authors are blushing because of all the praise, but believe me, they are pleased. But when that is said - we were ourselves surprised how quickly people who are interested in such topics became aware of this publication. We even noticed a trailer in TV PRIMA in the programme Minutes from the regions. You can watch it at the web address:

http://www.iprima.cz/index.php/plain_site/content/view/full/10020



Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2008 12:55 PM

Hello, the answer to your question is not unambiguous. Some information centres (unfortunately, they are not too many) fulfil their tasks well, most of them however don't. I consider the opening hours as the biggest problem. It is quite usual that many information centres are closed on weekends or they have very limited operation, which occurs even in the so-called tourist season. This term, which I – as a person who is engaged in tourism practically throughout the year – don't understand, is interpreted in different ways by the different tourist centre operators. I have even found information centres that have same opening hours as the town hall. As a result, many centres remain closed exactly in the time when there are most tourists in these localities. How the info-centres are equipped (maps, leaflets, brochures and souvenirs) is another evaluation criterion, and that goes even more for the attitude and knowledge of the staff. Here, the situation is in my opinion generally quite good, and despite some exceptions it is constantly improving. But to get to the point: Because of my above-mentioned negative experiences with the opening hours in many information centres my answer to your question will be NO.

Ing. Pavel Pretschner, Hadišská 1130, 397 01 Písek

Thank you for contributing to our survey. I hope and believe that the situation will be better and better.


Luděk Sládek, Editor-in-Chief

Spring is nicest when seen from a train window or Where to go this Easter

Easter finally „sounds the bell“ on cold days; there is more sunshine and nature shows its diverse colours in full. Easter markets and fairs have their magic as well, and their atmosphere ranks alongside those at Christmas. We have several tips on places to go for Easter, by rail of course. Nature in spring is nicest when seen from a train window.

An Easter village goes up in Prague

The capital city is preparing its traditional Easter markets. Easter villages with numerous stands are going up on the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square. The Easter markets in Prague last for 23 days – from Saturday, 8 March, to Sunday, 30 March. Stands will offer an assortment mainly with Easter themes, so in addition to various souvenirs and decorations you can also buy and taste traditional Easter treats, such as *jidáše* [hot cross buns] glazed with honey. A podium is also going up on the Old Town Square, where various artists will entertain both children and adults.

 If you intend to head to Prague for the Easter markets on a weekend with your family, we recommend Czech Railways' one-day **SONE+** network ticket. On Saturdays and Sundays up to five passengers can travel anywhere in the country on one SONE+ ticket (a maximum of two can be older than 15). A SONE+ ticket valid for local and express trains costs CZK 130, and for CZK 390 you can buy a ticket valid for all train categories (but you must buy seat reservations for trains requiring them). Find out more at www.cd.cz/sonc.

Tip for Easter romance

Over the Easter holiday (22-24 March), a steam train will leave Prague's Braník train station at 9:24 for the Křivoklát castle, where a craft fair and rich cultural programme are being prepared for visitors. The train heads back from Křivoklát at 15:31. A family ticket (two adults and two children) costs CZK 490. You can find out more on 972 228 853.




What is Easter like in the Valašsko area?

You can find out the answer if you head out for the Valašsko Museum in Nature in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. In the oldest part of the museum area – the Wooden Village – an assortment of Easter products and examples of Easter meals are being prepared for visitors on Holy Saturday. Those travelling to

Rožnov pod Radhoštěm on Easter Sunday will see traditional Easter and spring customs as presented by folkloric groups. Easter Monday is inherently connected with the tradition of lightly whipping girls and women with pussywillow whips. So if you want to experience an authentic Easter in Valašsko, plan to visit the museum on 24 March.



 Train 281 runs from Valašského Meziříčí to Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. Czech Railways trains can get you from Olomouc to Rožnov pod Radhoštěm in just under two hours. You can take a fast train departing from the main train station in Olomouc at 7:52 and arrive in Valašské Meziříčí at 9:17, where a local train to Rožnov pod Radhoštěm leaves at 9:22 and arrives at 9:50. If you're preparing a one-day trip or two-day trip with a return on the following day, you can get a **discount** when you buy a return ticket. A return ticket from Olomouc to Rožnov pod Radhoštěm costs CZK 209.

Our tip for Easter fun with animals

If you head out with children on 22 March to the Ohrada Zoo at Hluboká nad Vltavou, you definitely won't be sorry. Your children can try out their skills in an Easter play, weave special handmade whips called *pomlázky* or paint Easter eggs. The Christening of young animals born this spring as a symbol of Easter promises to be an event. Follow the signs from the train station at Hluboká nad Vltavou or Hluboká nad Vltavou-Zámostí to the Ohrada Zoo.



In the Landscape of the Czech Central Mountains

The Ústí region, that's green forests and mountains, rock towns, picturesque valleys where many rivers are winding through, historical and cultural monuments and even romantic ruins. On bike, on foot, by boat or by car – you can always find something new that is worth seeing.



and not only them, are more than welcome in zoological gardens in Děčín, Ústí nad Labem and in the Podkrušnohorský Zoological Park in Chomutov. Everybody who rides a bike knows that pleasant feeling which appears when you look around at the top of a hill and see the whole region that opens up, or when you, with the wind in your back, race downhill on a maintained way that leads to a picturesque valley or to a river bank. The region is literally interwoven by a net of cycle paths and cycle routes - for beginners, advanced cyclists and even for lovers of more demanding roads. Probably the best-known bike track, and one of the most-frequented ones by domestic and foreign visitors in the last years, is the Elbe cycle route that goes along the banks of the River Elbe up to Hamburg. While riding on this undemanding flat track you can visit many interesting places. At random let us name for example the Terezín Memorial, the bishop town Litoměřice, the Střekov Castle or Děčín, a town with a reconstructed dominant – the castle. And if you are tired after the long ride, you can refresh in the thermal spa in Brno, swim in the Děčín Aquapark or taste the excellent wine of Žernosec wine-yards.

The whole region is interwoven by well marked foot paths that combined with natural beauties challenge you to active rest. Let us name just a few of them: the Bohemian Switzerland National Park, the Lusatian Mountains, the Czech Central Mountains region or the Ore Mountains. Those who are not afraid of steep climbs can observe many places in this region from a number of lookout towers. Children,





The Czech Central Mountains

The tourist region Czech Central Mountains stretches from Ústí nad Labem in the east towards the Žatec and Louny areas in the west. This region, known for its hops, wine and fruit growing, rightly boasts of the title “Bohemia’s Garden”. Yet Ústí nad Labem, Litoměřice, Roudnice nad Labem or for instance Louny are several of many towns that every year attract thousands of history and culture lovers. The unique and maybe the main tourist magnet is the protected landscape area Czech Central Mountains, a region of once active and today extinct volcanoes. The shape of the landscape belongs to the most distinctive and at the same time most beautiful in the Czech Republic. The Milešovka Hill can be rightly called the queen of the area. Not only thanks to its height but also because of its beautiful

conical shape. In clear days you can have a wonderful view of the surrounding landscape from its top. The famous German scientist and traveller Alexander von Humboldt once described the view from Milešovka as the third most beautiful in the world.

The region is intersected by the River Elbe that creates a beautiful valley called The Bohemian Gate (Porta Bohemica) on its way to the north. Tourists often favour the views from the Lovoš Hill, the Holý Hill by Sutom, Little Chlum by Děčín or Varhošť. The views by the church of Saint Barbara in Dubičky or for instance the natural monument Vrkoč in Ústí nad Labem are also frequently visited. There are many castle ruins there, let us mention at least Házmburk, which is said to be the most photogenic one. Another specialty of this corner of the Czech Republic is good conditions for avionic sports, especially on the Raná Hill or on the amateur aerodrome in Charvátce.

And if you want a practical tip for a trip, set off north of Lovosice. The Oparenské Valley stretches under the slope of Lovoš. Along the Milešovský Brook, that flows through the valley, a 5 km-long pleasant and undemanding walk is offered. The valley is mostly woody, here and there rocky; parts of the track go along the railway track Teplice – Lovosice. In the olden days, several watermills stood here, and the last of them was in operation as late as during the Second World War. Today, one of the mills is operated as a pub. The ruins of the Gothic castle that surmounts on the woody hill above the village Opárno are also worth a visit. The castle’s origin goes back to the 14th century, and in its neighbourhood rests of prehistoric quarry can be found. Directly from the castle a nice view of the valley itself and tops in the surroundings is offered.

www.ceskestredohori.cz
www.ceskestredohori.ochranaprirody.cz



Ústí Region

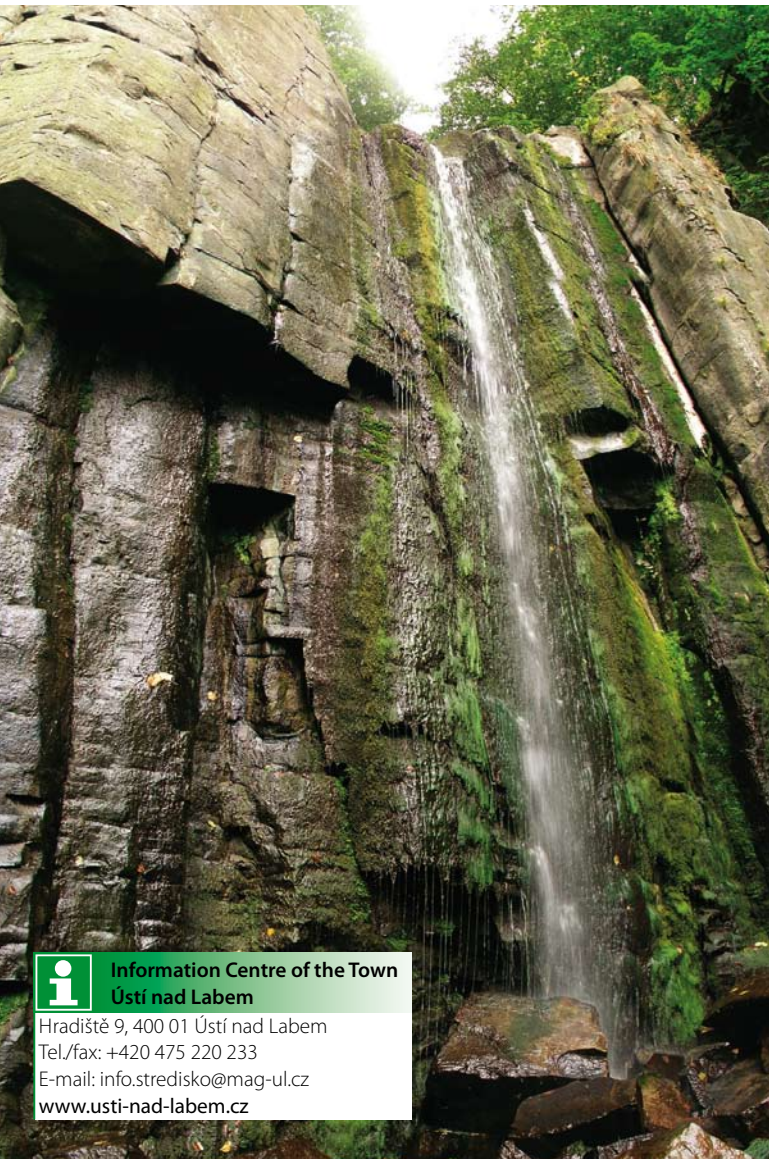
Velká Hradební 3118/49
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 E-mail: info@kr-ustecky.cz
www.kr-ustecky.cz

A Walk Around Ústí nad Labem

The Czech Republic's ninth largest city, Ústí nad Labem, is situated near the border to Germany, about 100 km north of Prague. It sits in the wonderful Elbe River valley that flows here through the Czech Central Mountains. The beauty of the local landscape and the city's monuments has since the end of the 18th century attracted artists to Ústí, where they found inspiration.



www.usti-nad-labem.cz



**Information Centre of the Town
Ústí nad Labem**

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Tel./fax: +420 475 220 233

E-mail: info.stredisko@mag-ul.cz

www.usti-nad-labem.cz



The writer Johan Wolfgang Goethe, the romantic poet Karel Hynek Mácha, the composers Richard Wagner and Bedřich Smetana, all visited the town several times. The ruins of the Střekov castle from the 14th century loom above the town on the right river bank. The left bank is dominated by newly reconstructed lookout tower Větruše that offers its visitors a marvellous view of the Elbe valley, either from the tower or from



the lookout restaurant. In the castle's surroundings we can find sports grounds and both natural and mirror labyrinths. The educational path leading to the Vaňov waterfall, the biggest in the Czech Central Mountains, starts here. In the town and its neighbourhood you can spend your time in many ways. You can find permanent theatre scenes and museums, and in addition many regular festivals are held here. Ústí nad Labem houses one of the most significant and oldest zoological gardens in the Czech Republic, and besides that one thermal and two covered swimming pools can be found here. The whole Ústí region is interwoven by an immense number of foot trails and bike lanes. Not far from the town we can find the national park Bohemian Saxon Switzerland, the ski centre Telnice, the sandstone rock town in Tisá or the open-air museum in Zubrnice.



Žatec – a Town Where Beer is at Home

History – Hops – Beer – Atmosphere



- Excellent beer has been brewed in Žatec for more than 700 years (taste seven sorts of Žatec beer)
- High-quality Žatec hops are grown for global beer brands (Budweiser Budvar, Pilsner Urquell, Žatec)
- More than 100 Czech and foreign films and advertisements have been shot here (Les Misérables, Oliver Twist, Yentl, Edith Piaf)
- You can find five squares and 500 buildings of different styles in the city centre (Synagogue, Town Hall, Plague Pillar)
- You can visit mysterious historical objects with a unique atmosphere (The brewery, Hops Museum, Dean Church)
- Hops storage buildings in Žatec candidate for entry on the UNESCO list)



The Hops-growing Museum in Žatec

- The Hops-growing Museum in Žatec contains the biggest exposition of its kind in the world.
- In an area of 4,000 m² the development of hops growing is presented from the early Middle Ages to modern times. You will learn why the best hops in the world are harvested right here in the Žatec region
- After one single visit in Žatec you will forever remember the smell of hops. In addition you will quench your thirst in the town where beer and hops are at home.

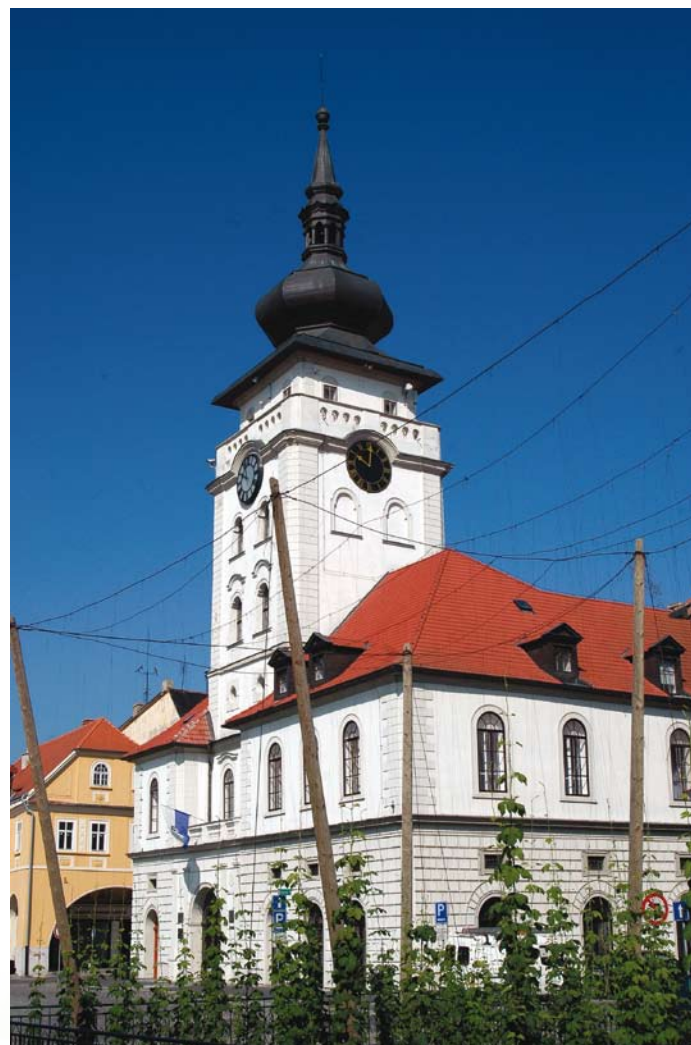
Open:

from May to October
from Monday to Saturday
from 10 am to 5 pm

Entrance fee:

Adults 50Kč
Children from 6 to 15 years 30Kč
Seniors 30Kč
Family entrance fee 110Kč

Individual terms of visit are possible after the previous agreement.



Tourist Information Centre

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E-mail: infocentrum@mesto-zatec.cz
www.mesto-zatec.cz



Hops-growing Museum

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+420 415 710 062
mobil:+420 724 431 422
E-mail: muzeum@chmelarstvi.cz
www.muzeum.chmelarstvi.cz

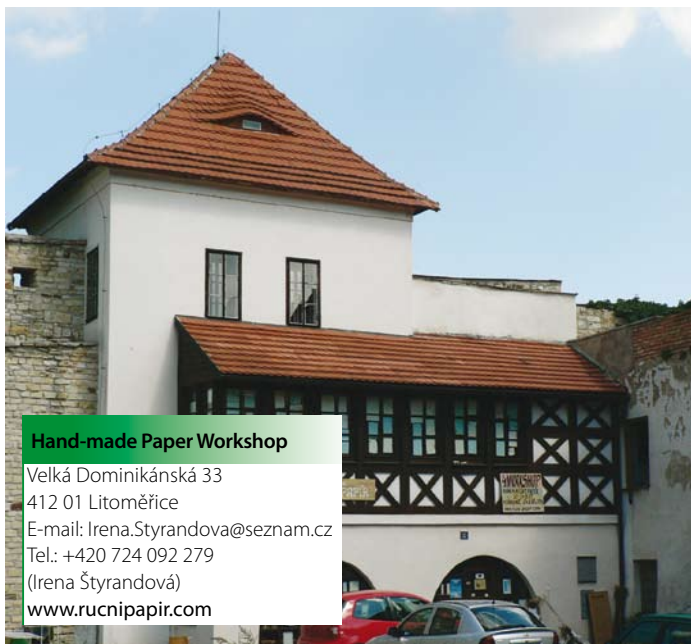
Hand-made Paper Workshop Litoměřice, s.r.o.



We would like to invite you to visit our hand-made paper workshop situated in the historical rampart fortification of the town. During sightseeing of the tower you will see - besides the actual exhibition - a display of traditional hand-made paper and you will be able to create your own sheet of paper.

OPEN: Mo and Thu 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., other days after agreement

Entrance fee: adults 30 Kč, students, children and seniors 20 Kč.



Hand-made Paper Workshop

Velká Dominikánská 33
412 01 Litoměřice
E-mail: Irena.Styrandova@seznam.cz
Tel.: +420 724 092 279
(Irena Štyrandová)
www.rucnipapir.com



hand-made paper production

Chomutov in the time of high hats and corsets

Visit the town at the foothill of the Ore Mountains right in the time of the traditional Chomutov festivities. The celebrations are always held in April in honour of the events in 1605, when Chomutov was bought out of serfdom and became a free royal town.



Sights of the town:

- Town monument zone
- Kamencové Lake – the only in the world
- Podkrušnohorský Zoological Park - the biggest zoo in the Czech Republic
- The natural park Bezruč Valley



Chomutov Festivities (April 25 – May 1)

April 25	Evening performance, fairy lamp parade, fireworks – May 1 Square
April 26 – 27	Funfair market (period marketers, street artists), non-traditional sightseeing – May 1 Square
April 26	Historical vehicles meeting – North Bohemian Mines' parking place
April 29	Sports Day (sports competitions for elementary school pupils)
April 30	Kindergarten children paint in the Town Park
May 1	Majorette group's parades – May 1 Square



Town Information Centre

Chelčického 99, 430 28 Chomutov
Tel.: +420 474 637 460
E-mail: infocentrum@chomutov-mesto.cz
www.chomutov-mesto.cz

Welcome in Royal Kadaň

One of Northern Bohemia's most picturesque towns is situated where a primeval settlement once was located by the former wade over the Ohře river. The royal town of Kadaň will impress you as a modern, hospitable and pleasant town, as a destination of many tourist trips.



Kadaň obtained the status of a free royal town around 1259, and the local castle became a seat of the Kadaň Region's burgrave in 1277. Kadaň had its heyday during Charles IV's reign. The historical core of the town is still decorated by an amazing number of gorgeous burgess houses, ecclesiastical buildings and remnants of medieval fortifications. And that is the reason why the historical centre was declared town monument preservation in 1978. The former Franciscan monastery from 1473 can undoubtedly be considered Kadaň's most valuable object. Today it serves as a municipal museum with the town's oldest cellar valves and the Church of Fourteen Holy Helpers. The Franciscan monastery was proclaimed a national cultural monument in 1995.

Main City Attractions:

Town Hall Tower: Open May – September, Sat, Sun at 10 am, 1, 3, 5 and 7 pm

Municipal Museum: www.muzeumkadan.cz

Lookout Tower: Top of the Holy Hill above the town, in the height of 390 metres above sea level

Hangman's Lane: Forms a part of Sokolovská Street and has been awarded with the title "narrowest lane in the Czech Republic" by the Dobry den Agency in Pelhřimov.

Selected Events:

Maxidog Fík's Birthday (June 7): The celebration of Maxidog Fík's birthday will become one big festival for children in the streets of the whole town.

Franciscan Summer (June 28 – September 21): Theatre and film performances, music production

Imperial Day (August 30): Kadaň will return to the 14th century, the town will be full of historic crafts, jugglers, marketers, stylish music and street theatre.



Josef Liesler Gallery

Mírové náměstí 1,432 01 Kadaň
Tel./Fax: +420 474 319 550
E-mail: galerie@mesto-kadan.cz
www.mesto-kadan.cz

The Spa Town Klášterec nad Ohří

Klášterec nad Ohří in north-western Bohemia is situated between the towns Chomutov and Karlovy Vary, not far from the German border. Less than 16 thousand inhabitants live in the River Ohře valley, between the Doupovské and the Ore Mountains.



The historically most significant monument of the town is the four-wing neo-Gothic castle. In the inner courtyard a permanent exposition of Czech, European and Oriental china is displayed. In the year 1794 the oldest porcelain factory in Bohemia came into existence and the porcelain production continues until today.

The baroque Church of the Holy Trinity with the Thun's family sepulchre, the graveyard church of Our Lady the Comforter, the square with classicist and empire houses, the so-called Lion Fountain made by Johann Brokoff, the Holy Trinity Column and the neo-Renaissance town hall with eight sided tower are other significant monuments.

In the end of the 19th century also balneology, in addition to porcelain production, became a part of Klášterec nad Ohří's traditions.



This development started when a healing mineral spring, called Eugenia, was discovered. Currently, the town can boast with a newly reconstructed spa resort where you can taste three mineral springs – Eugenia, Monastery spring and Town spring. The spa will open its first season on May 17, 2008 where local amateur actors will play a story about the Eugenia spring's discovery, Spirituál Kvintet band will perform and the springs will be "consecrated" by the violin of virtuoso Jaroslav Svěcený.

Selected cultural events:

March 1 – 31
Karel Pobřísko, exhibition of paintings – Kryt Gallery

March 24
Big Easter Whip Plashing with Castle Celebration – the Castle

April:
Spring Workshop by Artists from Klášterec, the Castle

April 10 June
22 – Exhibition "Precious Stones of the Ore Mountains" – the Castle

May 8
Castle Celebrations – the Castle

May 17
The Rite of Spring, opening of the spa season – the town, Eugenia Spa

May 23
Evening with Czech and German Baroque Music – concert at the Castle



Klášterec nad Ohří

Nám. Dr.E.Beneše 86
431 51 Klášterec nad Ohří
Tel.: +420 474 376 431
E-mail: icklasterec@muklasterec.cz
www.goklasterec.cz

The castle in the heart of Děčín

You can find Děčín Castle in the very centre of the city Děčín, above the junction of Elbe and Ploučnice rivers. It belongs to the biggest and historically most significant objects of its kind in Bohemia. After several reconstructions it received its contemporary Baroque-Classical appearance.



A wooden stronghold existed in the area of today's castle already in the 10th century and 250 years later it was rebuilt to a royal castle. Since the beginning of the 14th century the object served several nobility dynasties as a representational seat; its destiny was most significantly influenced by the lords of Vartemberk and Bünau and counts of the Thun-Hohenstein dynasty. In 1932 economic problems forced the Thun family to sell the castle to the Czechoslovak state, and the castle resort subsequently served as a Czechoslovak, German and Soviet garrison. The soldiers damaged the building severely, however, after the Soviet Army's departure in 1991 the ownerships of the castle was transferred to the city, which initiated renovation of the whole castle area.

Nowadays approximately half of the castle core is repaired. The eastern wing serves as a branch of the District Museum in Děčín, the northern wing is used by the State District Archive. In the renovated spaces individual and group sightseeing, wedding ceremonies, concerts, exhibitions, literary readings, wine tastings and other cultural events take place. In the course of the whole year the castle courtyard is livened up with various festivals or markets. The Historical May Fair, organized every May, is most important of them all. The information centre, which offers a number of publications about the castle and its vicinity, is open throughout the year as well. A new castle exposition was open in the western wing in May 2005. It contains the most attractive rooms with a marvellous view of the town and the river.

The Long Ride Lane

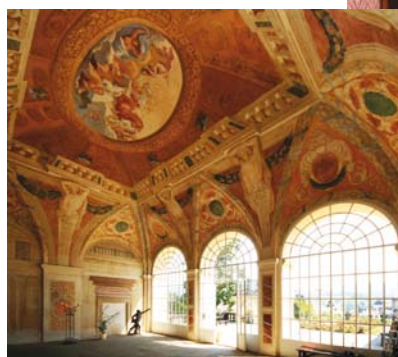
The access road to Děčín Castle is 292 metres long. On both sides of the lane there are walls that are lowered in the upper end of the stretch, which optically elongates the communication.

St. Georg's Chapel

It was established in the end of the 18th century. The chapel space was reconstructed and currently serves for exhibition purposes.

The Castle Armoury

Besides the main sightseeing tour the exposition of the District museum with baroque paintings and Děčín's vedutas can be visited. The Castle Armoury also contains a part of weapons and exhibits saved from devastation; it is decorated with original frescos and a wooden ceiling.



The Castle Stable

It is probably the most valuable room in the entire castle; it was commissioned by Maximilian Thun-Hohenstein, a big horse

lover. Twenty three horses stood here and a horse-shaped fountain was placed in its forefront.

The Rose Garden

It is one of the most valuable art monuments in Děčín. It is situated on the rock terrace above the city, along the Long Ride Lane, and it gained its name after a rosary that was founded here.

Sala Terrena

You will find it in the upper part of the Rose Garden, walls and ceiling are decorated with original wall paintings from 1678, and its motif is a story from Greek mythology.

Gloriet

The elevated two-storey lookout construction, crowned by statues of two fighters, and its balustrade is decorated with five women sculptures. It covers an entrance to a hidden corridor, annexed to the northern wall of the Long Ride Lane, and connecting the castle with the Church of Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



Information centre of the Děčín Castle

Velká Hradební 3118/49
400 02 Ústí nad Labem
Tel.: +420 475 657 111
E-mail: info@kr-ustecky.cz
www.kr-ustecky.cz

Such Things

EMA BLAŽKOVÁ was born in Prague, on the last day of the summer holidays in 1924, in a clerk's family. It's hard to tell whom she inherited her creative gifts from. Yet despite all the difficulties that life prepared for her, she always managed to delight people she met with her painting, even in the most extreme moments and situations.

PAMÁTNÍK TEREZÍN



Photos: from the author's family album

During the war, when she studied at the lyceum in Roudnice nad Labem, she became one of Nazi Germany's Czech victims during the so-called heydrichiada. Less than one month after the assassination of Reichsprotektor Heydrich, on June 20, 1942, officers from Gestapo's headquarters in Kladno occupied the lyceum building in Roudnice and arrested 84 students. The pretexts for the action were alleged preparations to assassinate Alfred Bauer, a teacher of the German elementary school in Roudnice and a Gestapo informer. The arrested students, among them Ema Blažková and sixteen girls from the seventh form A, were transported for interrogation in the Small Fortress in Terezín. The girls served as cleaning workers, the young men were taken to work outside the Small Fortress. She was released from Terezín, where two of the imprisoned students perished, only on November 2, 1942.

Ema Blažková's drawings from the Terezín period depict the prisoners' everyday life. On pieces of paper she managed to catch particular parts of the ever-same days, and also to document various nooks of the Small fortress, especially of the women's court. Her portraits of her co-prisoners are expressive and for a young lady remarkably mature; a group portrait of all the detained school-mates from Roudnice is an interesting historical document of that time. Already then Ema Blažková proved the polyvalence of her art.

After the war she graduated from the state lyceum in Roudnice; later she studied drawing at the Czech Technical University in Prague, at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design. In 1955 she undertook several study journeys to foreign countries, among them Vietnam, Bulgaria and Germany. But again and again she eagerly returned to the favourite motives of her beloved Prague, Příbram, and well-known places in Czech mountains and foothills. She had individual exhibitions from 1948, not only in then Czechoslovakia, but also in Athens, Munich, Leningrad, for the last time in 2002 in Litoměřice. She devoted much time to illustrate children books as well as to teach her children's schoolmates.

Ema Blažková was marked, both as an artist and as a human, by the



imprisonment in Terezín. It was a trauma which she could not get rid of until her death. Already during her studies at art schools, it expressed itself as an insuppressible resistance against totality – at that time represented by the incoming communist regime. It was just a question of time until the permanent conflicts with the communist machinery grew into an open clash. At the beginning of the



Self-portrait

70's, in the time of party purges and merciless normalisation, Ema Blažková was arrested on the basis of fabricated accusations. From the detention in Ruzyně prison she was later transferred to Bohnice asylum, where her serious mental disease developed fully. While her turbulent life path so far had paradoxically positive influence on her creativity, this time it was the other way round. Ema Blažková, mother of three children, died in the day of her 79th birthday, on August 31, 2003 in Prague.

Text: PhDr. Jan Štíbr, director of Central Bohemian Gallery of Fine Arts in Litoměřice



Exhibition of Ema Blažková's paintings is held to May 30 in the cinema foyer of the Small Fortress

Terezín Memorial

www.pamatnik-terezin.cz



Enjoying culture in České Budějovice

Every year the royal town České Budějovice turns into a vivid culture centre. Music and theatre festivals offer a number of unique performances, in which the city's historical centre - its square, streets, parks and water surfaces - serves as a stage where you can enjoy superb experiences.



Concerts at the Square / June – September

Concert nocturna with interesting bands not only from České Budějovice and its surroundings

Statue Quartet June – October

Installation of interesting artefacts made by young sculptors in the pedestrian zone in Lannova Street

Orbis Pictus June 16 – September 14

Interactive exhibition or Gate to the world of creative human fantasy

Midsummer Night's Celebration June 23

Fire celebration – drums, masques, puppets, music and theatre on the water surface

Street Arts Festival P.R.D. June 24 – 25

Happening, theatre performances, art gallery and workshops in the streets of the city centre

Pleasant Meeting June 24 – 26

Theatre festival in tents and marquees – workshop, music, dance



Muses on Water June 29 – July 3

Five-day music festival on the water surface (ballet, violinist Pavel Šporcl, concerts)

Summer Time July 9 – August 27

Summer music and fairytale festival in the town hall courtyard

Bohemia Jazz Festival July 19

Jazz tour with concerts all over the Czech Republic. This year the masters of jazz will perform for the third time in České Budějovice.

Symposium with wooden statues July 21 – 27

Creation of wooden sculptures in the nature scenery on the Sokolský Isle.

Lugnasad August 1 – 3

The third annual edition of Celtic festival with international participation

Wave August 8 – 10

International waterman festival, attractive show, competitions, fun, concerts.

When bagpipes played August 20

Invitation to the International bagpipe festival in Strakonice

XIX. Ema Destinová's International Festival August 22 – September 13

Twelve concerts with classical music masters that will culminate with a final galaconcert.

Water Games September 6

Rag competition between adult teams in non-traditional disciplines, concert and fireworks

National opening of EHD

– European Heritage Days –

September 12 – 14

An event that will open extraordinary monuments, buildings and spaces of the town

Tourist Information Centre

Náměstí Přemysla Otakara II. č. 2
370 92 České Budějovice
Tel./fax +420 386 801 413,14
E-mail: infocb@c-budejovice.cz
www.c-budejovice.cz

Something has been lost

Pilgrimages, fairs, wakes, feasts or kermes, these are known events for all of us. But because they have merged into one and the same celebration, let us point out some minor differences.

Pilgrimages to holy places

It might surprise you that pilgrimages to holy places are common to all world religions. Yet in the Roman-Catholic religion they are of fundamental importance. The pilgrimages have been a part of Catholicism from its beginnings to these days, although the Bible doesn't directly admonish to them. That's why Homo viator – the travelling human - had to visit Jerusalem in the Holy Land, later the eternal city Rome. It was just a question of time when other pilgrim places appeared, including the regional ones. But the generation of the second half of the 20th century, when hearing the word pilgrimage, visualizes mainly fairs with roundabouts, swings, target-ranges and provisional stands with gingerbread, balloons on a rope, candies, capsule pistols and lucky envelopes for 5 crowns. Today's generations know fairs as a noisy, spiritless, commercial event full of Asian goods.

Annual markets

This term comes from German from the composed word Jahrmarkt (Jahr – year, Markt – market). Some towns were given the right to hold annual markets, and the purpose was first of all to fill the town treasury. A town that had more than one market a year was considered to be important, but we know cases when towns had four or more markets annually. When I hear the word market today, I try to escape. Well, in cases where there is not added a word historic, traditional, old-Bohemian, pottery or folk crafts. In the opposite case it is just an ordinary bazaar.



Drawing: Marta Krátká

Hurrah for the Trip...

The summer holiday is still far away, but in kindergartens, elementary and comprehensive schools teachers already plan trips for their pupils and students. The most popular month for school trips is usually May. Everything grows green outside, the weather is warm, but first of all - the school year starts to draw to a close.



Well, in my young days, when I was attending the basic school the trips were really nice. We used to visit all the corners of our country. In my memories I love to return to the trip to Southern Moravia. Our teacher commanded us to walk, and we marched obediently off. The trek across Pálava Hills was great. We walked through the whole educational path Děvín. Along the way we secretly bought some bottles of wine and in the evenings we tiddled. Even though we were not much interested in monuments at that time, the visit to the Lednice-Valtice Area was worth the while.

Another joyful trek was our wandering about Czech Paradise (Český ráj). We were chasing our schoolmates in the Prachovské Rocks (Prachovské skály). The teachers were shouting at us to be quiet and to keep together. But we couldn't have cared less, as one could expect from children. Since our history teacher had come with us we didn't miss the opportunity to visit Rumcajs' Jičín, of course with a lecture. The same expected us when we arrived in Turnov. We walked around in the town and visited the Hrubý Rohozec Castle and the Czech Paradise Museum. Here, we saw exhibits of the natural fortunes in Czech Paradise and its history. The expositions are devoted to precious stones and jewels. It was a nice trip, I like to recall it.

As a matter of fact, I liked our one-day trip to Lešná zoological garden as well. The whole area of the zoological garden in Zlín is situated in the historical Lešná park. The garden is divided in accordance with the continents, so you will find animals from Africa, South America,



Drawing: Marta Krátká

Australia and Asia here. Africa, however, was the best, with gorillas. In the end we visited the Lešná Castle, where the interiors are decorated with unique wooden carvings. In addition, also rich porcelain, silver and Orient collection was exhibited here. You bet – our school trips were great!☺

Štěpánka Martínková



Contest question:

What is the name of the tropical hall in the Lešná Zoological Garden? You can send your answers to the editorial house's address or by e-mail to kam@baset.cz before March 17. Three of you will receive a map from Shocart Publishing House.

Crisscrossing the Králícko Region

Králícký Sněžník is the third highest mountains in the Czech Republic and three rivers flowing to three seas spring up on its foothills. The mountain's name is derived from the long winter when the snow-cover endures eight months before disappearing. On the top of the mountain you can find a so-called triple march stone, marking the Czech Kingdom's border with the Moravian margraviat and Kladsko County. A baby-elephant statue standing on a walled pillar not far from the remnants of a dilapidated cottage is a symbol of the range. The national nature reservation was declared here in 1990.



On the mountainsides of Králícký Sněžník

It is not only snow here, but also sunshine, that lures to walks in the nature. As a trip tip for hiking fans we can recommend the educational path Králícký Sněžník. The path starts on the parking place in the northern part of the village Dolní Morava (695 metres above sea level) and leads along the yellow-marked way through the River Morava valley up to its spring under the Králícký Sněžník's peak (9 kilometres). It continues along the red - marked way to the parting of the ways above Adéla's spring, from where the way continues on yellow marks and finishes in the altitude of 899 metre at Návrší Cottage (5 kilometres). During this 14 kilometre-long track along the educational path you will pass 15 stops, and overcome the elevation of 685 metres. The track can be passed in the opposite way as well. The educational path is marked with the unofficial symbol of Králícký Sněžník – a baby-elephant silhouette.

Recommended border checkpoints

Horní Morava - Jodlów (tourist); Lichkov - Miedzylesie (railway); Králícký Sněžník Peak - Sněžník (tourist); train stops Bílá Voda, Červená Voda, Červený Potok, Dolní Lipka, Dolní Orlice, Králíky, Lichkov, Mladkov, Mlýnický Dvůr, Moravský Karlov and Prostřední Lipka.

Some adrenaline won't harm

If you plan a trip to this region and your offspring demand more adrenaline-filled experiences, then you should let them visit Větrný vrch (Wuthering Height). Here they will find an outdoor climbing wall of good quality, but also a sports hall with gymnasium, sporting goods and equipment rental, playground, pétanque and boccia sports ground, indoor ping-pong, cross track in slope or outdoor sports grounds.

A path to military fortifications

Lovers of our pre-war military forts will be enthused to walk along the educational path along the Czechoslovak fortification of Dolní Morava. The path will show you different parts of the fortification that was built before the Second World War in the village Dolní Morava.



K-S 14 "U cihelny" (At the brickworks) - The dominant of this artillery cabin are two combat casemates and a space for mortar support during battle. In the building's surroundings, an obstacle system is gradually being renewed (Prostřední Lipka). The object houses the Museum of the Czechoslovak fortification in the years 1935 – 1938 with a permanent exposition.

K-S 12b „Utržený“ (Torn off) - The three-story artillery watchtower is one of the best-preserved objects in the country. Here you can see the last plated bell in the Králícko region. (Králíky)

K-S 8 "U Nádraží" (By the railway station) - Its main military task was to direct firing from the armoured copula to the forefronts of the Hůrka firing fortress. (Králíky)

K-S 5 "U Potoka" (At the brook) - This infantry cabin is reconstructed to its state of 1938. (Králíky)

Lichkov – the military museum is situated in two separate infantry bunkers, K-S 32 "At the Corner" and K-S 31 "U Besídky". (Lichkov)

Military Museum Králíky - is situated directly in the middle of the zone where the Czechoslovak defence fortifications in 1935-1938 were built. (Králíky)

Bouda Artillery Stronghold – is an accessible underground object in the region of Suchý vrch (Dry Height - parking place by the cottage at Suchý vrch), one of the five finalized

Information Centre Králíky

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Tel.: +420 465 631 117
E-mail: info@muzeumkraliky.cz
www.muzeumkraliky.cz

Information Centre Lichkov

561 68 Lichkov 203
Tel.: +420 465 635 531
E-mail: info@lichkov.cz
www.lichkov.cz

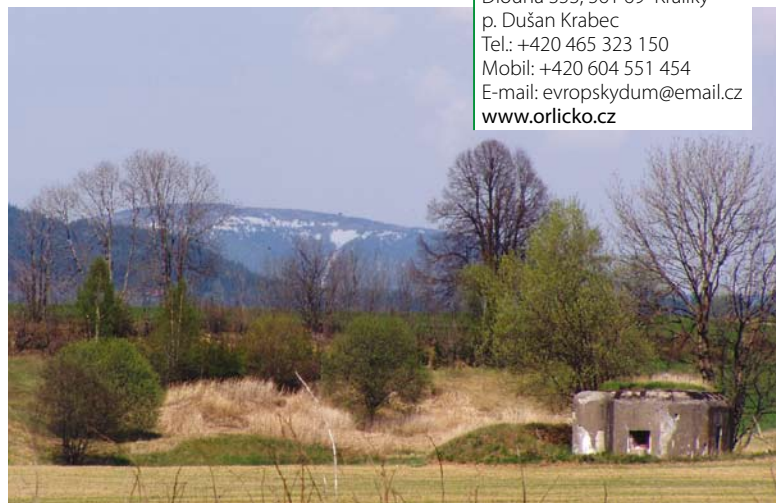


East Bohemia Association

www.vychodnicechy.info

RIC European House

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p. Dušan Krabec
Tel.: +420 465 323 150
Mobil: +420 604 551 454
E-mail: evropskydum@email.cz
www.orlicko.cz



Easter Liberec

Accept our invitation to the Easter Markets in Liberec that will take place on March 17 – 22. Here you will find stands with a rich offer of Easter eggs, traditional Easter whips, chickens and rabbits. Needless to say, an accompanying programme consisting of children choirs performing in the middle of the market is a part of the festivities. And when you have had enough of Easter shopping you can for a change visit the white tigers in the Zoological garden or take your children to the IQ Park in the Babylon Centre.



i **Town Information Centre
Liberec**
Nám. Dr. E. Beneše 1
460 59 Liberec
tel.: 485 101 709
www.infolbc.cz



Throwing Out Morena

Although this winter once again proved that it is losing its powers and that we don't have to count with the winter in the future, we should still take farewell with it in a dignified way. These days the "procedure" of witch burning is quite popular, nevertheless there are other ways you can say good bye to winter and welcome to spring.

Morana, Mora, Morena or Mařena is the Pagan goddess of winter, very known in today's folklore. She was worshipped by the old Slavs and Balts. She is personified by winter, her reign ends in spring and therefore she has to drowned or beaten when the cold season ends. She cannot be considered purely as a death goddess or as some ugly beldam because she is reputedly very beautiful. Thus, the traditional ritual that is carried out even today, consists of throwing Morena and then burn or drown her. Most often Morena is tossed out of a bridge or a rock. It is very interesting that - despite the thousand year-long abatement of pagan rituals - one of them is still preserved in a very lively way in the custom of throwing out Morena.



Drawing: Marta Krátká

Jewish Monuments in Vysočina (the Highlands)

Since the Middle Ages the history of many Czech and Moravian towns has been influenced by the Jewish population. Let's set off for a trip to see Jewish monuments of Vysočina. Let's visit places where Jewish houses were saved from insensitive building interventions in the post-war years, and where synagogues not have been rebuilt to unrecognizable.

During the reconstruction of synagogues their vaults and stucco decorations were renovated, fragments of wall paintings were saved. The history of the local Jewish communities is presented in them through photographs, period furniture and objects for daily use and religious services.

A uniquely preserved Jewish quarter can be found in Třebíč, you can drop into some of the stylish restaurants, visit Rear Synagogue with a large exposition about the Jewish quarter's history, or take a walk to the vast Jewish cemetery. The Regional Jewish Museum is situated in the synagogue in Polná. One of its valuable exhibits is a temple curtain decorated with prayer inscriptions. The Empire synagogue in Třešť is the only synagogue in our country that has an arcade on its frontispiece, one of its expositions is devoted to Franz Kafka. The houses in the Jewish Quarter in Velké Meziříčí will catch your attention thanks to their impressive architectonic details;

Kraj Vysočina

Památky
židovského osídlení

Contest Question:

In what year did Třebíč enter the UNESCO World Heritage list? You can send your answers on the e-mail address kam@baset.cz or to the editorial house's address before March 20. Three correct answers will be worthily rewarded.

the synagogue is renovated for exhibition purposes. The Talmud school in Golčův Jeníkov was the last one of its kind in Bohemia.

The depository of the Prague Jewish Museum is located in the local synagogue, but it is not accessible for public. The reconstructed synagogue in Ledec nad Sázavou is used for exhibitions and concerts. The Jewish cemetery founded in 1601 belongs to the oldest ones in Bohemia. The synagogue in Humpolec jointly with the Jewish cemetery is a part of an educational path.

A detailed description of preserved monuments of the Jewish settlement in Vysočina is included in a brochure with the same name. You can find its electronic version on www.region-vysocina.cz and its paper edition can be won in our contest.

Vysočina Tourism

Žižkova 16
586 01 Jihlava
Tel.: +420 564 602 555
E-mail: turista@region-vysocina.cz
www.region-vysocina.cz

Wandering around in the Moravian-Silesian region

The Moravian-Silesian region – that's wonderful nature, a magnitude of cultural, architectural, sacral and technical monuments, plus sports and leisure opportunities for all of you.



Jeseníky

Would you like to see the spring thaw in mountains with your own eyes? In that case set off for Bílá Opava River Valley, where you can find an educational path with the same name, that is a part of the Praděd National Nature Reservation. The path will lead you along wild rapids, cascades and waterfalls to the mountain cottage Barborka. From here it's just a short distance to the top of the "Moravian glacier" - Praděd (1 491) - and to Peter's Stones, where witches soldered together according to a legend. The spa Karlova Studánka (Charles' Well), which thanks to its air belongs to the cleanest in the Czech Republic, is situated at the beginning of the educational path. The spa is also interesting because of its unique architecture. The Jeseník region is rich in historical monuments. The largest castle complex can be found in the Sovinec Castle not far from Rýmařov. During Easter a non-traditional sightseeing tour and a show of customs and traditions will be organized here. You should definitely visit the Rešov Waterfalls south of Rýmařov, and also the remnants of the Rešov Castle. In Bruntál you can visit its castle with a Renaissance arcade court-yard and an ample park with remains of ramparts, bastions and a pond. The town you should not skip over is Krnov, with a Renaissance castle, Minorite monastery, with Renaissance and baroque bourgeois houses and a neo-Renaissance town hall. The local Jewish synagogue is unique. It is the only building with Arabian-Spanish interiors in Moravia and Silesia. At the same time it is the only synagogue in the region that is open for tourists.

www.bruntal.mic.cz

www.czech.rymarov.cz

www.jeseniky.net



Silesia – Opava Region (Opavské Slezsko)

Opavské Slezsko is situated in the heart of the Moravian-Silesian region. This area constitutes a heaven for all curious natures and enthusiasts who are interested in historical and cultural monuments or monuments of technical character. What's more, you can find it all in combination with ideal hiking and bicycling conditions. The Silesia – Opava Region has become commonly known thanks to its rich cultural life, the way in which folk customs and traditions are kept, and also because of Silesia's traditional cuisine. The spring time in this region is devoted first of all to important natural sights that



Ostrava – blast furnaces



Raduň Castle

start to reveal their beauty right in the Easter time. Several sights are worth seeing – let us name the Arboretum in Nový dvůr, the Orangery at the Raduň Castle, the Red and White Castle in Hradec nad Moravicí, the Trout Farm in Bělá or the educational paths Hvozdnice and Moravice. And if you'd like to observe all the beauties of the Opava region and of the town Opava itself from on high, the Hláška Town Tower opens its gates for regular ascents from White Easter Saturday, i.e. from March 22.

www.infocentrum.opava.cz



Ostrava Region

Would you like to learn how coal was exploited and processed? Or how steel is produced in blast furnaces - and at the same time enjoy some sports or culture? In Ostrava you have several opportunities for it. The Mine Museum OKD Laněk is a unique combination of technical and natural monument. In the underground the museum offers expositions in a gallery situated at the upper seams of the real historical mine Anselm, while at the surface you will find a national nature monument - Laněk – with a rich offer of sports self-realization: rope centre, tennis courts, grounds for beach volleyball, cycle paths. The premises of the mine museum also houses cultural events. One of them is the International Music Festival Janáček's May, taking place in the days from May 19 to June 9.

Another major technical attraction is the national cultural monument Michal Mine, where the exposition is designed according to the theory of the so-called last working day. In the mine itself you will find the exposition ORBIS PICTUS with interactive acoustic, optical and kinetic objects and installations. During the summer months visitors will be allowed to enter the Lower part of Vítkovice (so-called Ostrava's Hradčany) mining area, a resort aspiring for entry in the UNESCO list. This is a unique industrial architecture complex consisting of blast furnaces, a coking plant and a black-coal mine, situated in the immediate vicinity of central Ostrava. If you long for a blast of much older history, you can visit the newly reconstructed Silesian-Ostrava Castle where the Easter Fair will be held on March 15 – 16 in its courtyard. MINIUNI is an attraction for both children and adults.



On the area of 1.5 hectares you can view more than 20 models of important buildings from European cities.

www.ostravainfo.cz

Moravia's Kravařsko Region – Poodří

This region has a dense net of tourist tracks and also lots of educational paths, cycle routes and cultural monuments. Some significant personalities of global or European importance are connected with this region; let us name Johan Gregor Mendel whose native house can be found at the address www.mendel-rodnydum.vrazne.cz, Sigmund Freud, Jan Amos Komenský, Cardinal František Tomášek and others. During the spring months the nature lures visitors to walks along the Odra River. The Odra River's unrestrained flow streams in numerous meanders through the valley's flood-plain. This part of Moravian Kravařsko was proclaimed the protected landscape area Poodří. In Moravia's Kravařsko Region you can celebrate "Easter in the Village" with us, take part in the 7th year of "Opening of Poodří and Odra Home Brew Tasting" which will be held at the Bartošovice Castle. It is a competition for the title King of Odra Brandy 2008 in the categories plum, pear and apple.

www.moravskekravarsko.cz



Beskydy and Valašsko

You can admire the fresh and green hills of Beskydy on your way to the Lysá Hill. You can brisk up the acquired energy in the mountain rope centre Tarzania, situated in the neighbourhood of the lower station of the lift to the very popular Pustevny. And would you like to take a look at the Beskydy during springtime from the horse back? The Horse Ranch in Čeladná offers recreational riding both in Western and English style. Since spring has already knocked on the gates of Czech castles you could visit the Frýdecký Castle, surmounting above the Ostravice River. If you long for some medieval inspiration you can stop in the village Hukvaldy. Here, you shouldn't miss the vast ruins of the feudal Hukvaldy Castle and a walk through the blossoming game-park that is the home of a numerous mouflon and fellow-deer herds. Do you know Moravian Bethlehem? It is a picturesque mountain town, Štramberk, with a typical dominant – the cylinder tower Trúba with the ruins of the Štramberk Castle. You will certainly be tempted by the smell of the local speciality – Ears of Štramberk. You can quench your thirst with Trubač beer, which the brewster serves you in the local Štramberk brewery. In the neighbouring town Kopřivnice you can visit the Tatra Technical Museum, the exposition of which represents the most complex collection devoted to the beginnings of traffic means production in the Czech lands and Moravia. In the newly opened Museum of the Frenštát Region you can get acquainted with the history of Frenštát pod Radhoštěm. In the "living" exposition of the Elementary school in the Fojtství area in Kozlovice children can sit in the desks of the 19th century and try to write letters on slate tablets.

www.beskydy.com

www.beskydy-valassko.cz

www.frenstat.info



Těšín's Silesia (Těšínské Slezsko)

In Těšín's Silesia everybody finds something of his or her liking. You can hike through the mountains with packs on your backs, walk through the ancient Mionše forest and learn about its fauna and flora, climb the Knight's path to the Čantoryje Hill and view the region from the local lookout tower. Those of you who are attracted by adrenaline experiences should check out for instance the rope centre or the bob-sleigh track in Mosty by Jablůnkov. You can take off paragliding above the Těšín Beskydy from the Javorový Hill, which can be reached with a funicular. The spring weather is usually very shifting, so it is necessary to adapt leisure activities according to it. If the weather doesn't permit outdoor activities you can immerse yourself into the spa. The modern Regeneration Centre and the wellness centre Vitality World of Darkov Spa offer a broad scale of relaxing packages, with a row of treatment-relaxation delicacies. As the spring sun gets brighter you can together with us look forward to the Easter Fair, displaying historic crafts and Easter traditions, which will be held on March 21. You can also choose from the rich offer of Experience Package Catalogue in Karviná.

www.tesinske-beskydy.cz

www.karvina.org

Moravian - Silesian
Destination Management

www.tourisms.cz

Sepetná Recreation centre

The Sepetná holiday resort is situated at foothills of the Lysá Mountain in the village Ostravice. You can find here everything at one place.



The mountain hotel **Sepetná***** offers accommodation in 43 double rooms and stylish apartments. All the rooms are situated in a separate, quiet part of the hotel with entry only for hotel

guests. Further you can stay in **bungalows Sepetná***** that have been completely reconstructed and offer ideal accommodation for families. For less demanding tourists there is **Pension Sluníčko**** with a heated swimming pool with FREE entrance for hotel guests. All guests at the recreation complex also have FREE entrance to the relax centre Sepetná with a 20 metre long swimming pool, a whirlpool and a steam cabin.

Recreation Centre Sepetná Ostravice

Ostravice 0956
739 14 Ostravice
Tel: +420 558 682 108
Mobil: +420 603 852 111
E-mail: sepetna@sepetna.cz
www.sepetna.cz

The recreation centre offers several advantageous accommodation packages.

Hotel Avalanche

The newly constructed hotel complex **Avalanche** is situated in the Hrubý Jeseník region by the village Dolní Moravice, about 10 kilometres from the highest mountain in Moravia and Silesia – **Praděd Mountain**.



The hotel is equipped with a reception hall, restaurant, nine conference rooms, lounge, an inner swimming pool with counter current, fitness facilities, sauna, bowling and billiard rooms, darts, table tennis, ski depository room.

The hotel's accommodation capacity is 37 rooms, five log cabins and tents. Every room is comfortably equipped. It has its own sanitary facility with a bath tub or a shower bath and a mini-bar.

In the complex you can find a stylish wine cellar - capacity 60-80 persons - with seating and Moravian and world wine degustation.

Sporting possibilities:

Cross-country skiing – only 1 km from the hotel most of the cross-country tracks meet at one point. Alpine skiing – **Avalanche Ski Resort** with a new four-seat lift (250 metres from the hotel).

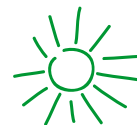
Hotel Avalanche

Dolní Moravice
795 01 Rýmařov
Tel./fax: +420 554 254 099
E-mail: hotel.avalanche@seznam.cz
www.avalanche-hotel.cz



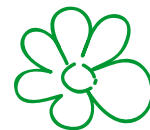
Events in the Moravian – Silesian region

April 26
Witches' Sabbath at Hukvaldy Castle
www.ic.hukvaldy.eu



April 5
Spring and tourist season opening in Hradec nad Moravicí
www.muhradec.cz

April 4 – 6
Exhibition Holiday and the region 2008 Ostrava
www.cerna-louka.cz



May 17 – 18
Meeting of Cymbal Music Bands from the "Kingdom of Wallachia" in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm
www.frenstat.info

May 17
Opening of the Poodří region and Poodří wine tasting, Bartošovice Castle
www.regionpoodri.cz

May 24
Upper-Silesian Festivities in Krnov
www.krnov.cz



May 19
International Music Festival Janáček's May, Ostrava
www.janackuvmaj.cz

June 17 – 23
14th International Folklore Festival in Frýdek-Místek
www.ostravicka.cz

June 20 – 22
Festivity days in the town Štramberk
www.stramberk.cz



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AQUAPARK



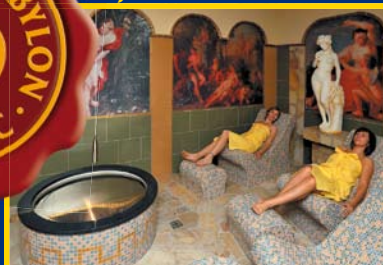
ALL UNDER ONE ROOF



JESTĚD - 5 km



ZOO - 5 km



WELLNESS CENTRE



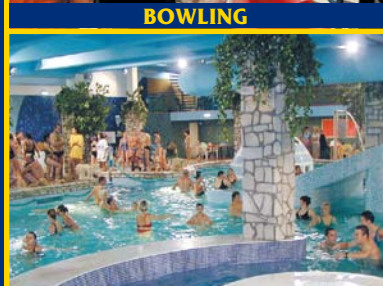
RESTAURANTS AND CATERING



BOWLING



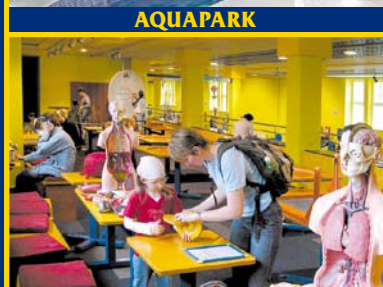
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AQUAPARK



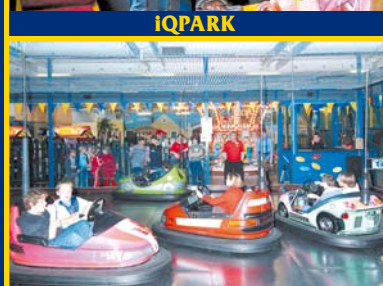
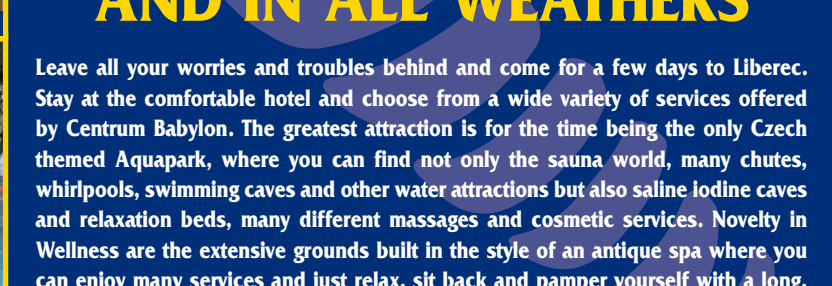
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The Czechs in a Nutshell

A User's Manual for Foreigners

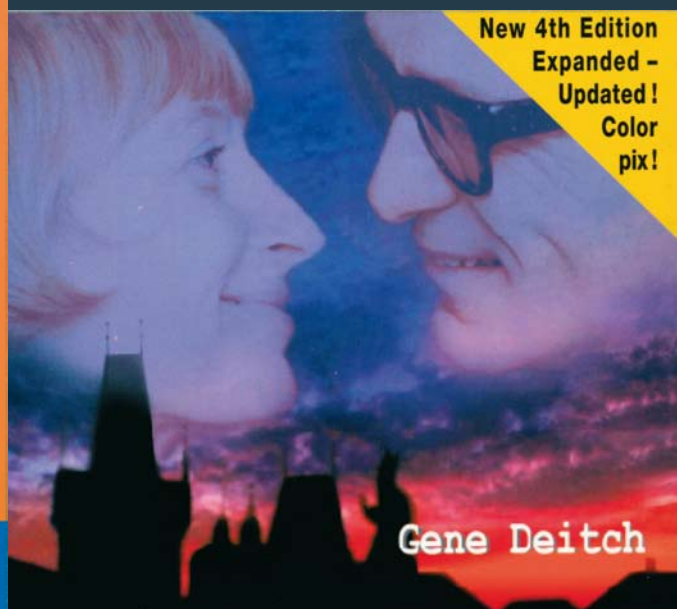


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