

OUT-OF-TOWN ONE-DAY TRIPS:

Karlovy Vary, the famous spa

Kutná Hora, the medieval mining town with a Gothic cathedral of St. Barbora

Kostnice, Santini's church with memorable human bone decor

Křivoklát, Gothic castle with rare original architecture, unknown to tourists

Dobříš and Mníšek, retreats of writers near Prague, visit to a recently restored 17th c. pilgrimage site of Skalka, decorated by M. Braun's famous frescoes and statues

Okoř and Budeč, sites of ancient Slavonic settlements

Popovice, trip to an ecologically protected region with rare botanical and mineralogical specimen, to witness opening of a new nature trail

St. John's caves, a day hike to an ancient pilgrimage site near Prague (where a prison for millionaires was located after the communist take-over) and the castle of Karlštejn, built by Charles IV in the 14th c.

... and many others!

PRAGUE WALKS, TRIPS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES in Spring 2002 SATA

IN AND AROUND THE CITY OF PRAGUE:

Divoká Šárka – a nature preserve on the periphery of Prague, the site of an ancient Slavic settlement surrounded by myths and legends

Hvězda – the 16th century Czech mansion near White Mountain build by Ferdinand Habsburgh

Vyšehrad – the earliest city of the Přemyslide dynasty in Prague

Břevnov Benedictine monastery (founded by St. Adalbert in 993)

walk through the monastery grounds

Romanesque foundations with 10th c. basilica (the site was buried for 600 years and discovered only in the 1970s (called "Czech Pompeii")

St. Margaret baroque church with Peter Brandl's painted altars

presentation on destruction of religious orders during communism

Strahov monastery of the Premonstrates (founded by the German order in early 12th c.) with famous collection of ancient manuscripts housed in the original baroque locations

Art Gallery of the Dominican Order

walk through the Strahov gardens with unusual architectural vistas

Bílá hora – site of the infamous 1620 battle

Baroque pilgrimage chapel with corner cloisters by Santini

Bethlehem chapel – renovated Gothic church where Jan Hus preached in the early 1500s, history of Hussitism and European reformation movement

Zábradlí theater café – meeting place of famous Czech actors where many of Václav Havel's plays are performed

Veletržní palác – exhibit of 20th c. European art and special collection of contemporary Czech art

discussion about Czech National Gallery, its Communist heritage and questions of future funding and location

Clementinum, Jesuit convent and learning institute established in 1556

tour of the library and reading rooms

St. Jacob church –Easter mass and organ concerts

Emauzy – monastery established during Charles IV's reign as an intrinsic component of the New Town and restoration of Slavic liturgy in the Czech Kingdom through monks arriving to Bohemia from Croatia
famous frescoes of the "people's Bible"
architectural effects of World War Two allied bombing and communist neglect

National Theater –performance of Dvořák's opera *Rusalka*

preceded by a discussion about the Theater's role in the National

Revival

EXHIBITS:

Trips to well-known galleries around Prague

CONCERTS:

...of Czech Philharmony, Vera Bila - the queen gypsy music, and many others