We are ready for the season. Come and see Olomouc is no longer a sleeping pearl.

In recent years, the city has awakened and today there are plenty of ways to spend your free time. According to Martin Major, the Mayor of Olomouc, the city is excellently prepared for the upcoming high tourist season. Read about events that you should definitely not miss.

How do you feel about the increasing number of tourists who come to Olomouc every year?

More and more foreign as well as domestic tourists are interested in Olomouc which, of course, good news. This is due, in part, to the presti-
gious Lonely Planet guide which recently included Olomouc in two reports. First, we were named one of the hidden pearls of Europe, and a year later we were included on the list of places not to miss when travelling.

I am very happy that our beautiful city is being discovered by more and more visitors, even from very distant destinations such as South Korea or Russia. The statistics also show that more Czechs are coming, which is great. There are so many attractive ways to spend time here and our efforts to continually expand these pay off. Our hotels have recorded almost ten per cent increase in the number of guests. And the numbers do not lie. Olomouc is getting increasingly visible on the map of the Czech Republic.

Does the city succeed in developing new tourist attractions?

Elina Garanča is not only a great opera singer, but also a beautiful woman. Photo: Archives

Elina Garanča spends almost every other day in a different city during her concert tour. She sells out famous opera houses, yet even after hundreds of performances, she is still nervous before every concert. A native of Latvia, the mezzo-soprano Elina Garanča, who has enjoyed worldwide success for over fifteen years, will be introduced to the Olomouc audience this year. She hopes to continue the successful open-air concerts of recent years, when Olomouc has had the opportunity to hear opera performances of José Cura or the flamenco guitar tones of Paco de Lucía.

On Thursday, June 26th, a temporary stage for almost three thousand spectators will be set up on Horní Square. Elina Garanča’s solo performance will start at 8.30 pm, accompanied by the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra led by the singer’s husband, the famous conductor Karel Mark Chichon. The talented Czech tenor Petr Nekoranec will appear as a guest performer. Tickets, costing between CZK 700 to 1,500, can be purchased at Eventim.

There is no doubt that this performance will be a great event. The Mayor of the city, Martin Major, confirms: “We are proud of the tradition of star performances on Horní Square. I’m very happy that we can work in cooperation with the TK plus agency we can repeat it this year and introduce another great artist not only to the Olomouc audience, but also to fans of good music from Austria, Poland or Hungary who use our open-air concerts.”

What does Elina Garanča think of the concert? We talked to her about her expectations, working with her husband and the stage fright that has not disappeared even after hundreds of shows.

You have already performed in the Czech Republic. What do you think of the Czech audience? Do you like to sing in our country?

I must say that I am happy to come here thanks to the fantastic audience whom I simply love. I always get a warm welcome here. It’s great that I can return to the Czech Republic fairly regularly. I always try to come up with something new and interesting. Not only to show how I have developed, but also to surprise and delight all who come to my performance with expectations of something special.

Your concert will be a big event of the Olomouc summer season. What are your expectations? Will you have time to do some sightseeing?

I hope so, and I will really try to make time for it. Because for example the Holy Trinity Column or the Town Hall, these are the places that I would very much like to see.

An attractive offer, not only in the main tourist season, is obviously very important and I dare say that we do our best to make Olomouc visible. The promotion of tourism, however, does not lie only on the shoulders of the city. Cooperation with private entities is crucial to help us create a large offer suitable to all most everyone. We support interesting projects through grants and we are successful in creating conditions for truly big events like the Half Marathon, spectacular concerts and unique exhibitions. Olomouc certainly benefits from such a large offer of events.

The offer for this summer is really large, whether for couples, athletes, culture lovers or families. What are you definitely not going to miss with your five year old son?

Our son is very lively, so we are busy all the time. We like to go to the Zoo together, where we never forget to stop at the monkeys, kangaroos and colourful saltwater aquaria. We cannot do without feeding goats, of course, as well as without the children’s topes course.

I highly recommend the Zoo because kids have a good romp around while the parents relax in the beautiful countryside. This year we have bought scooters, so in addition to riding through the parks we might make a scooter trip to the Zoo. I’m sure we will take part in the Family Run of the Olomouc Half Marathon; on the hotter days you will probably find us in the Aquapark. There are many activities for kids available, so there will be no problem choosing something.

Olomouc can be viewed from a normal bike or a four-wheel bike, from a raft, and also from the zig zag rope course. Have you ever taken advantage of these possibilities offered by the Information Centre?

One of the best views of the city is the one from above. The towers of the St. Michael’s Abbey, the spires or families. What are you definitely not going to miss with your five year old son?

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The best runners head for the Olomouc Half Marathon

The Mattoni 1/2 Marathon is still growing. This year it will certainly be ten thousand – and as it should, it will be a little bigger again. Four years ago, in the first year of this popular race, 1800 athletes started in the main run. This year, with 7000. Furthermore, the runners will race different parts of the city as the 1/2 Marathon fundamentally changes route every year. The starting shot will be fired on Saturday, on the 24th of June at 7 am.

The race will move from the ring road to the historic centre and to the northern outskirts of the city, from Start and the Finish remain on Horní Square, beside the Astronomical Clock. Then the runners’ course sets off down Riegger Street around the Cathedral towards the Central Train Station, along the athletic stadium and the University. It then heads through Smetanova Park, along the Athletic Football Stadium, towards the northern part of the city. Here, in the fields, a view of the Holy Cross Cemetery. The race route goes through Hejčín and Lazce and along the military hospital, back to the centre. During the last five kilometres, along the Masaryk and Kosmonaut St Jordan Street, the track follows the initial track.

The organizers expect higher throughput capacity from this new track. “The runners will not overcome the slower ones in the second loop. These

Both professional and recreational runners enjoy the half marathon.

Photo by Jan Andräš

We are ready for the season…

Continued from page 1

And if you manage to find yourself in the dome of St. Mi- chael’s at noon, you will walk away with a wonderful experi- ence of the immediate vicinity of the striking bells.

And Olomouc seen from the air. You will see how to spend a few days here. Many attractive opportunities will host handmade market, various specials of well-known producers along with less-famous beers from small family breweries that attract more and more people every year. It is this incredibly diverse range that makes the Olomouc Beer Festival famous for.

Come and see for yourself. Moreover, the admission is lower than last year. So why still hesitate?

Photo by Jan Andräš

The best beer festival offers a hefty portion of music

The fans of the Olomouc Beer Festival have perhaps only one complaint; sometimes it is hard to tell whether they come for beer or good music. Both are covered. The festival offers beer from about four do- zen of breweries and on top of that, a three-day music event full of different styles.

There will be thirteen bands to be seen and hea- red. On Friday, June 13th, at 5 pm introducing Michal Hrůza and his band at the square,” she adds. This is a magnet for the world’s elite visitors to stay longer or come back with their families. I hope that we will soon carry out a very interesting project called Olomouc Castle which will make our city even more attrac- tive. Indeed, there is no other such historically significant site in the vicinity of the St. Wenceslas Cathedral and the Premonstratensian Castle. Whether you think of major concerts, festivals, sporting events, tradi- tional Flora exhibition or beer, Olomouc has it all. I think there will always be many attractive opportunities how to spend a few days here.

The organizers expect higher throughput capacity from this new track. ‘The runners will not overcome the slower ones in the second loop. These

Both professional and recreational runners enjoy the half marathon.

Photo by Jan Andräš

There is always room for improvement, no doubt about that. Olomouc has plenty of po- tential to gradually uncover and form a friendly and inter- esting way to locals and visitors. In recent years several new hotels have opened, and it seems, that this capacity can- not be utilised. Thanks to this, however, we are developing convention tourism with an adequate quality of services. Now it’s up to us to persuade

The organizers expect higher throughput capacity from this new track.

Both professional and recreational runners enjoy the half marathon.

Photo by Jan Andräš

The Olomouc City Fest promises two days of experi- ences, flowers and shopping filled with a scent of gourmet food. On June 13th and 14th, Olo- mouc will enjoy main squares and Smetanova Park, will be in the spotlight for all who love having a good time. The Olomouc City Fest has actually one important feature – year af- ter year it tends to be better and more colourful.

The City Fest will be laun- ched by an event reflecting on the legacy of ancient genera- also be replaced by a large open-air concert at Horní Square at 7 pm introducing Michal Hála and His Heirty band. Both squa- res will host handmade market, craft fair and Hanácky’s farmer’s market. The popular local food contest at the Festival Gastrol will take place on both days, featuring the well-known aromatic Olomouc card cherven Tvaružky. A new attraction is the installation of lighting objects in the Smetanova Square with the colors of the Czech Republic. The National Championship of the popular game pétanque will probably also engage vi- sitors’ attention. The fest will be accompanied by many other events such as theater perfor- mances and concerts.

The Beerfest – a thirteen year tradition in Olomouc.

Photo by Jan Andräš

Events Calendar – Olomouc 2014 • tourism.olomouc.eu

JUNE

• 4. – 6. | J.FESTIVAL OF SONGS

international choral festival – 42nd edition

www.festivalamusica.com

• 14. – 16. | BOUNTY ROCK CAFE OPEN AIR

Festival of blues and rock music – 4th edition

www.bricopoznan.cz

• 12. – 14. | MEZI NÁM – IN OUR MIDST & HOMAGE TO ROSES

Healthy Lifestyle, dedicated people’s day, active seniors, relaxation, sport and movement

www.flora-ol.cz

• 13. – 16. |ITY FEST

City’s historic celebrations

www.olomouc.eu/wladvy- mesta

• 27. – 6. |OLOMOUC BAROQUE CELEBRATION

Summer evenings with Baroque opera against the historical backdrop of ancient Olomouc

www.olomouc.eu/branikolomouc

JULY

• 24. – 27. | COLORES FLAMENCOS

International festival of flamenco and Spanish culture – 6th edition

www.flamencoclo.com/c/ festival-flamencos

AUGUST

• 14. – 17. | FLORA OLOMOUC

Summer edition of international horticultural exhibition and fair

www.flora-ol.cz

• 29. – 30. | MARSHAL RADĚZEK COMMÉMORATION

Celebration with a military brass bands parade

www.radecky.eu

SEPTEMBER

• 5. – 9. |EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

Open Doors Day at historic monuments, exhibitions, cultural program

www.olomouc.eu/ded

• 4. – 18. |INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL

Festival of organ music – 46th edition

www.mfo.cz

• 6. | ARISOHW

Air show at the Neředín airport

www.olomouc.eu/nlise-neředín

OLOMOUC CELEBRATES

20 years of beerfestival

www.pivnifestival.cz

2014.06.28 – 30. | SCITY FEST

5. – 6. | SCITY FEST

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OLOMOUC CELEBRATES 20 years of beerfestival

www.pivnifestival.cz
You will enjoy Olomouc this summer

The number of possibilities how to enjoy the most beautiful city in Moravia is growing every year. This year will be no exception. There is a varied program of events for visitors of all ages.

A very interesting new tour called “Exploring the city’s house signs” is being introduced this summer. This guided tour tracks the signs at Olomouc town houses, pointing out their importance. In addition to those familiar, such as the Golden Dragon, Dog & Red Bull, there are many others in the city centre and each of them has an interesting story to tell. Tours in Czech language will be held on request only every first Saturday of the month at 10 am. “We believe that this new offer will appeal not only to visitors but also to the locals. Every day, we are getting around the city in a hurry and do not even know how many preserved or restored house signs we have. I’d be glad if the Olomoucans took part in the tour as well. It’s nice to learn something new and interesting about your city,” said Holupčík, the deputy for tourism. The first tour will be free of charge and will take place at the opening of the tourist season on May 17th at 10 am. From then on, adults going to pay CZK 50, children from 12, students and seniors CZK 25.

Tourists who prefer to walk the city alone can borrow a new audio guide of the Town Hall, available at the Information Centre. This way they can see the Town Hall alone without a guide and in their own pace. Headphones with spoken commentary in Czech, English and German can be rented for CZK 30 + refundable deposit. If you get to like this type of tour you can borrow an audio guide to all major city sights.

Win a weekend in Olomouc!

Answer the current competition question at www.olomouc.cz and win a unique weekend for two in Olomouc and other great prizes.

Competition • Competition • Competition

Get some goodies from the market

With the beginning of spring, the Hanácký farmer’s market on the Dolní Square, on Saturdays from 8:00 to 13:00 until the end of October will offer new goods: dozens of stands with fresh farmer’s food mainly from Horní Square and Lučánova. The range is always broad and varies depending on the season. There is organic food available as well as award-winning products with regional labeling Haná, Jeseníky, Moravská brána, Regional food of the Olomouc region or the Pro-Organic. “The Hanácký farmer’s market has established itself as a popular and useful event.”

“Clean Hotels” project

The City of Olomouc in cooperation with selected accommodation facilities prepares an implementation of a project called “Clean Hotels”. Its aim is to engage dial stones that make up the Old Town and the City Hall building and Townhall tower, which offers breathtaking views of the city. The children’s tours can be pre-ordered at any time by calling 585 513 385 or e-mailing at informacentrum@olomouc.eu. Olomouc offers three significant exhibitions on its premises. “Olomouc through the Ages,” “Olomouc Astronomical Clock” and “History of the Town Hall” are accessible to the public during municipality office hours or as part of the Olomouc in a Nutshell tour.

You can also ride around Olomouc on your own, even if you did not bring your bike with you. The bike rental and return is now easier. You can arrange the rental in front of the Information Centre on Horní Square, at the central railway station (at the ČD Centrum) or at the Semafor Centre located between the swimming pool and football stadium at Legionářská Street. From May until September, a bike storage facility will be available at the Town Hall.

Olomouc can be explored at any age. They are still in great demand. Another advantage is the multilingual commentary which enables tours with linguistically mixed groups,” says Jitka Lučanová, the head of the Information Centre.

Popular tours remain on offer

Popular tours such as Olomouc in a Nutshell, city tours for children as well as three exhibitions at the Town Hall are still available this season. The Olomouc churches are also open including guide service. Thanks to the cooperation with the Petří Tourist agency, visitors can enjoy a view of Olomouc from a bike or even a four-wheeled bike. Rafting tours are also very popular,” says Jitka Lučanová.

Olomouc in a Nutshell is an approximately one hour long guided tour of the most significant monuments of Horní Square and includes an ascents of the Town Hall tower. From June 15th to September 15th, you can take part in the tour several times daily (9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 14:00, 15:30 and 17:00) for CZK 50, children pay half the price.

The City tour with Ola the cat is similar in content, but in a playful way guided tour designed for kids of 4 to 7 years. Ola the cat and Eda the tomcat, who live behind the Town Hall tower, guide groups of children around the square and to the Town Hall building and Townhall tower, which offers breathtaking views of the city. The children’s tours can be pre-ordered at any time by calling 585 513 385 or e-mailing at informacentrum@olomouc.eu. Olomouc offers three significant exhibitions on its premises. “Olomouc through the Ages,” “Olomouc Astronomical Clock” and “History of the Town Hall” are accessible to the public during municipality office hours or as part of the Olomouc in a Nutshell tour.
The proud Imperial Royal Fortress Olomouc is once again in full glory. The preserved forts and redoubts are as full of life and action as the days of their military glory. Thanks to enthusiastic owners, fans of military history and their cooperation we can get a firsthand experience of Baroque fortifications from the 18th century. In the Habsburg monarchy, the Olomouc fortress ranked at the very top among large imperial fortresses. The fortifications here, however, were being constructed a long time ago, according to archaeologists even before Olomouc became part of the Austrian Empire. Set off for a walk to the city parks and you will pass along Romankaue, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque city walls with various gates and gateways. The Advanced forts are quite another matter. While earlier these fortifications were closed to the public as they were owned by the army, today you can get inside and even experience something interesting there. At the Baroque Crown Fortress for example, several events including two big festivals, of beer and rock music, will take place this year. The Crown fortress also hides a unique Powder House with a new exhibition on the preserved military premises in the city and its surroundings and on the construction of the Olomouc fortress. Here you can see how it looked like in days of glory. There is a few meters big model of the Olomouc fortress in the former gunpowder store in the Powder House. The second annual event called Ol- mitz 1813 is going to be a big show too. On September 5th to 7th, hundreds of soldiers and civilians dressed as in the time of the Napoleonic Wars will commemorate the then role of Olomouc. Lots of interesting things are going on at the Fort XVII in Krélov too, including concerts, theater performances and events for schools. The fort has another interesting of- fer – a view of Olomouc and the peaks of Jeseníky Mountains from the repaired roof of a caponier. Visitors can empathize with the imperial troops who were expecting a Prussian attack here in 1866. In those days two hundred thousand soldiers gathered in Olomouc and its surroundings! In the summer season, tours are also possible at the Fort II in Radík- lov, Fort XIII in Nová Ulice and Fort XXII in Černovír. The vast Radíkov fort will hold cele- bration of Liberation Day on May 8th. This third edition will bring together fifty uniformed members of the Red Army, the Wehrmacht, SS and partisans. The event can be watched from board of a helicopter which will take off right at the fort. Very attractive is the tour of the newly renovated Fort XXII in Černovír. The Fort in Nová Ulice displays a collection of modern military equipment from the second half of the 20th century. The forts are connected by a new cycle route called Olomouc Redoubts. “We strive to preserve our heritage for you,” says the motto of the Černovír’s Fort. It perfectly captures the efforts of all who are involved in the restoration of the famous Imperial Royal Fortress.

Contacts and opening hours

CROWN FORTRESS
April to October
Tue - Fri 9:00 - 17:00
Sat, Sun 11:00 - 17:00
Closed on Monday
www.pevnostolomouc.cz

FORT XIII NOVÁ ULICE
June and September
Sat and Sun 11:00 - 17:00
July and August
daily except Mondays
11:00 - 17:00
www.forty.cz

FORT (FEST) II RADÍKOV
May, June, September,
October
Sat and Sun 11:00 - 17:00
July and August
Wed to Sun 11:00 - 17:00
www.pevnost-radikov.cz

Come and see the ancient Olomouc’ churches

For a thousand years, Olomouc has been the spiritual ca- pital of Moravia. Throughout the summer season, you can now look into the most beau- tiful Olomouc’s churches, chur- ches and temples. Thanks to our guide you can learn a lot of interesting about them. “The idea to open the churches to the public and provide them with guide service was born several years ago. Since getting positive feedback, the guides will return again this year,” says the Deputy Mayor Jan Holpuch.

Daily from at latest 9 am to 5 pm you can visit the churches of St. Maurice, St. Michael and Our Lady of the Snows, the St. Wenceslas Cathedral with the crypt, a Symbolic contribution at the entrance. The tower of St. Wenceslas is accessible at significant events only, such as the Night of Churches, which falls on May 23rd this year, and the European Heritage Days on September 5th - 7th. You can ascend the Town Hall Tower within the Olomouc in a Nantkeil tour, or individually, five times a day from June 15th till late September. From here, you can also observe the illumin- ated landmarks of the city after dark as the Town Hall Tower is accessible within the popular night tour from mid-June, every Thursday and Friday.

Only the view from church towers, but also the sight of them is worth it. From the bell tower you can view the skies close up. A telescope will be newly installed at the hotel’s look- out tower, which will give you another interesting perspective from which you can admire the downtown, church towers and the outskirts. Hotel staff will take you to the lookout for free, upon prior reservation on the reception.

From above, from near or afar, from Olomouc’ towers

The forts and redoubts are full of life and action as the days of their military glory. Thanks to enthusiastic owners, fans of military history and their cooperation we can get a firsthand experience of Baroque fortifications from the 18th century. In the Habsburg monarchy, the Olomouc fortress ranked at the very top among large imperial fortresses. The fort- ficiations here, however, were
Baroque festivities impressed audiences, Olomouc has found its theme

Generations of historians and artists labeled Olomouc as a Baroque city.

Although the origins of the town date back as far as early Middle Ages, the fact is that the Baroque era has shaped the city’s face at most. It is today, however, that Olomouc managed to open up this part of its soul. This is well evidenced by the Olomouc Baroque celebration whose second edition takes up nearly half of the summer days.

How was it last year? Baroque-costumed characters walking the streets, restaurant diners accompanied by Baroque “table music” and the highlight of the program – Baroque opera in the streets. It has become a tradition in museums and other cultural institutions in the Czech Republic.

The seat of Olomouc and its cultural history was shared in a unique atmosphere of the end of Univerzitní Street, yet it is one of the most beautiful Baroque towns in the country and even in Central Europe. Only a few experts would miss villa Primavesi, this architectural gem located at Michael’s hill, with a beautiful view from the city walls.

The two-story building was constructed in 1664–1669. The present façade was built in the second half of the 18th century in Neo-Renaissance style, then made Baroque-costumed characters walking the streets, restaurant diners accompanied by Baroque “table music” and the highlight of the program – Baroque opera in the streets.

Every night one of the most significant cultural period of the thousand years long history of the city came alive. The performances were sold out; the audience and Ensemble Damián’s performers were satisfied. “The number of visitors is estimated at two and a half thousand, including two outdoor performances of Harlequins and children’s workshops,” said Kateřina Zahradníková from Ensemble Damiano after the last year’s season. “We are obviously excited not only about the support that we have received from the city, but also about the huge interest of the audience. We would obviously like to continue in the coming season.” There was only one drawback and that was the duration of the event. “Of course, the best thing would be if Olomouc could offer such performances the whole season,” says Depuť-Mayor Jan Holpuch.

This year, also thanks to the support of the city, it was possible to stretch the festivities from two weeks into nearly a month. “We guessed that the Baroque culture had great potential for the city,” says Jan Holpuch. “For a long time we were discussing the possible benefits of such an event in terms of tourism development. We suspected lack of interest though as there was no tradition of such events in our city. In the end we cracked this seemingly insolvable problem and significantly supported the festival. And as it turned out, it was a good decision.” City visitors will meet again figures in Baroque costumes in the streets and around the Town Hall and there will be an unforgettable program waiting for them at the old Jesuit university.

This year’s Baroque festivities will take place from June 27th to July 20th. In the main evening program, visitors will see, among others, a comic opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The twelve year old musical genius wrote the opera Bastien and Bastienne shortly before he and his family left Olomouc after a several months’ stay in the city. The audience will experience the opera with newly translated libretto by Jaromír Nováček. Works by Václav, Handel and the Olomouc composer and leader of the Ensemble Damiano Tomáš Hanálek are also on the program. In addition to the summer festivities, Olomouc will commemorate the May 18th as its birthday.

The two-story building, the Archbishop’s Palace hosted emperors, pope and kings. You are welcome as well.

The painter Gustav Klimt designed the living hall and other representative rooms. Today, there is a nice restaurant in the villa with a seating area in the garden where you can view the Bezruč Park. Photos: Archives baroko.olomouc.eu

Museums and galleries will come to life at night

For the tenth time, we will commemorate the May 18th as the birthday of Olomouc, a significant example of Baroque palaces in Moravia, is all of this. It has become a tradition in Olomouc to open galleries, museums and other cultural institutions for free as part of the Night of Museums on the last Friday of May. This cultural phenomenon is celebrated in a unique atmosphere of the Friday night. The historically valuable rooms of a former jesuit monastery have been preserved to this day on the first floor of the palace. It is those rooms where major historical events took place – the Russian Tsar Alexander I and the Austrian Emperor Francis discussed steps here before the battle of Austerlitz in 1805, the Emperor Frederick I, the Austrian throne here in favor of his nephew, Francis Joseph I in 1848 and in 1850, the Pontification of Pius IX, an important treaty between Prussia and Austria was concluded here.

However, these representatives have hosted many other notable personalities, among them Empress Maria Theresa, Pope John Paul II and Presidents T. G. Masaryk, E. Beneš, V. Ha- vel, V. Klaus and M. Zeman. These halls are available to the public as part of a guided tour which also includes a room for temporary exhibitions.

EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES AND CONCERTS IN 2014

25. 4.–28. 9. | “John XXIII. and John Paul II. The works in the vineyard of the Lord,” exhibition on the occasion of the canonization of the two popes 3. 5.–7. 9. | “Maria Theresa’s daughters” portraits of daughters of Maria Theresa and Francis Stephen in portraits

6. 7. | Music concert by Illegal Consort Brno 18:00 | spiritual music of German-Italian provenance from the 18th century

18. 9. | Lecture in the chateau library in Kroměříž lecturer: Bc. Cyril Měsíc, librarian | 17:00

19. 9. | Lecture: “John Paul II. a Holy Pope,” lecturer: prof. F. X. Halas | date and time to be announced

6. 7.–9. 7. | European Heritage Days guided tours

9. 9.–30. 10. | Cardinal Dietrichstein’s minting

1. 10. | Lecture on construction and historic development of the Archbishop’s residence in Olomouc lecturer: Dr. Simona Jemelíková | 17:00

Palace of Olomouc bishops and archbishops open to the public

The seat of Olomouc bishops and archbishops, a place where the history was shaped, a building that hosted many important people.

The Archbishop’s Palace in Olomouc, a significant example of the Baroque palace architecture in Moravia, is all of this. It has become a tradition in Olomouc to open galleries, museums and other cultural institutions for free as part of the Night of Museums on the last Friday of May. This cultural phenomenon is celebrated in a unique atmosphere of the Friday night. The historically valuable rooms of a former jesuit monastery have been preserved to this day on the first floor of the palace. It is those rooms where major historical events took place – the Russian Tsar Alexander I and the Austrian Emperor Francis discussed steps here before the battle of Austerlitz in 1805, the Emperor Frederick I, the Austrian throne here in favor of his nephew, Francis Joseph I in 1848 and in 1850, the Pontification of Pius IX, an important treaty between Prussia and Austria was concluded here.

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EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES AND CONCERTS IN 2014

A peek into the world of spas

A guru of world hydrotherapy? That is Priessnitz!

Priessnitz is known as the father of modern hydrotherapy. He believed that the natural waters and the mountain air were the best remedies for all kinds of illnesses. His balanced diet and lifestyle included regular exercise and healthy eating. He promoted the idea of a spa as a place where people could come to relax, heal, and improve their health.

The spa resort in Jeseník that bears his name is the first hydrotherapy resort in the world. Kings and dukes, the high society of the entire old continent and from overseas, all used to come here to restore health. Among others, Princesses of Austria and George V of the world’s first female doctor Elizabeth Blackwell. Let’s come and reveal something new for you or discover long forgotten stories.

The main asset of the Priessnitz Spa is clean mountain air and mountain spring water. No wonder Vincenz Priessnitz said repeatedly that it’s not him who heals people, it’s the local countryside.

Try out the beneficial effects of the mountain air and bubbling clear water available at the unique Vincenz Priessnitz’s Balneopark, a rarity to be found only at this spa resort. It is a special “water garden” – a unique piece of garden architecture and landscaping. Here you can paddle in brooks, try out Priessnitz’s benches and Scotch hose. The bravest visitors can use naturo- ral showers with cold spring water. However, you will experience that most pleasant feeling of relaxation at the whole spa.

The Priessnitz Spa embed- ded at the foot of Rychlebské Mountains with views of the Jeseník Mountains ridge are an ideal place for active hik- ing and outdoor activities of all kinds, such as Nordic walking beneficial for the cardiovascular system and correct posture. The Rychle- by and Jeseník Mountains, however, are renowned as a cycling destination too. Mountain bike trails called Rychleby Trails and a trail in the footsteps of the history of witchcraft go just around the corner. We are proud of our town lines on the route of the Peace Race for riders under 25 years. No wonder there is a fleet of scooters and electric bikes to be rented at the spa information centre.

Priessnitz ordered his pa- tients physical activity in the open mountain air and allowed a stay in the gym only in really bad weather. Was he perhaps the founder of the now so po- pular outdoor fitness? We will never know that, nevertheless the spa builds on his legacy with the new Priessnitz Fitness Park that offers active fun and sport with the purest climate and mountainous landscapes. From mid-May, you can try out the fitness equipment using mainly your own body weight and an outdoor exercise bike to stretch joints and develop coordinati- on. Not only will you exercise and strengthen the entire body and improve agility, you will also enjoy unique mountain views.

This is its first season in operation, though the first hiking and an imaginary cloud of steamed appeared over the spa last October already. Lázeňák train, named by our Facebook fans, carries children along the spa prome- nade, colonnade and Balneo- park and also to Jeseník town and back. In high season there are trips to nearby attractions, such as the Devil’s stones, to Adrannel Park Jeseník in the nearby Česká Ves or to the favourite forest bar.

The excellent Czech actress Zlava Adamska, who also is the official face of the spa, has be- come the patron of the children’s hospital.

Thermal Spa Velké Losiny – a place for your health

Are you hesitating where to spend your holidays? We invite you to the sea of ex- periences to the spa town of Velké Losiny. You just have to decide on the focus of your holiday:

• taking care of your health
• taking relaxation treat- ments of your choice
• hiking and exploring the historical heritage of the region

You can stay right at the spa resort in the hotel Etička *** or the spa sanatorium Sára*** and spa villa Gazárka ***.

The spa guests can visit many historic and tourist at- traction of the region at spe- cial discounted prices – the Renaissance castle with po- pular nightly tours, handmade paper factory or the cable car to the top of the Berg- rade hydro power plant Dlou- hé Stráně. You can explore the beautiful nature of the Jeseníky Mountains foot trails, makes Velké Losiny a wonderful pla- ce to spend your holiday with your family.

The Thermal Spa Velké Losiny offers at least five rarities:

• more than 450 years of spa tradition
• unique natural resources – thermal springs
• excellent physiotherapy and therapeutic treatments
• unique natural hot springs
• unique natural thermal springs
• unique historical heritage of the region
• unique Therme Park ex- tensive walks guaranteed to be open in au- tumn 2014

The Thermal Spa Velké Losiny rightly belongs to the oldest and most famous Mora- vian spas.

Come to the Thermal Spa Velké Losiny which will en- chant you with its picturesque scenery and beautiful nature. Every year there is something new at the spa, be it a recon- struction of the building, a new pro- gramme or treatment. This year is no exception.

You do not have to travel far to get to know foreign coun- tries. We will give you a sense of the scent and taste of all the continents within the program Round the World in 3 or 7 days.

Enjoy the Madagascar and Thai massage, carbon bath with eucalyptus and taste a great menu inspired by the Americas, Africa and Australia.

You can also visit our spa with children. We have a special All Day programme for mums and dads. You and your family can enjoy the pools or bowling for just the kids or crown. We will lend you Nordic walking po- les or bicycles to ride around the attractive neighborhood. There is a range of relaxation week or weekend stays ready for you. Just choose one.

Little customers from 1.5 years onwards are treated in the most modern children’s hospital Radost that opened after an ex- tensive renovation this spring. Thanks to the great architect’s work, the building can be expected to be admired from the outside too. The excellent Czech actress Zla- va Adamskova, who is also the official face of the spa, has be- come the patron of the children’s hospital.

For plumper children, we have prepared an absolutely unique and entertaining treat- ment of childhood obesity “Get slim with Radost” with lots of animation programs aimed at exercise not just eating. We do not entertain the children but we also naturally start to change their mind and emotions towards a healthy diet and life- style. If you too want to adopt a healthy lifestyle you can join our children for a one-week weight reducing therapy.

If you have health problems, check with your physician, get the spa therapy prescribed and come here on your insurance plan. Thermal Spa Velké Losiny specializes in heart diseases, but we deal also with healing of the musculoskeletal system, di- abetes, nerve disorders and o- tological diseases. We take care of patients after heart surgery and joint replacements, the total hip replacements. A trained team of professionals, from do- ctors, physiotherapists to the spa personnel, provides high quality care, meaning that our guests come back year after year.

Toplice nad Bečvou – a spa within reach

Currently, the Slatnice Spa offers a comprehensive range of treatments, including a full spa programme and activities at the Slatnica Spa hotel.
Aquapark offers special programs for children. Photo by J. Andrášik

Enjoy swimming and water fun

Hot summer weather invites us to water games and fun.

That fact that you are on a trip or a vacation in the city does not mean you and your children have to give up the delight of bathing. Both lovers of recreational water activities and sporty swimmers come on their own in Olomouc.

If your kids have a competitive nature, they will surely love not only swimming but also a visit to Aquapark, the Olomouc’s waterpark. Every summer day, animators prepare interesting games and thrilling and entertaining competitions. Older athletes will surely appreciate the newly renovated swimming stadium in the city centre with two 50 m long indoor and outdoor pools. Children of different ages will be entertained both in the water and on land. The children’s outdoor swimming pool features a water slide in the form of a snake, water bop, towering bucket and other water attractions.

Older children and adrenaline lovers can try the big water chute. The renovated summer compound provides entertainment on dry land too in the form of a children’s playground and a beach volleyball court, which is free for visitors. “The swimming stadium is among the most popular leisure centres in Olomouc. This is evidenced by the high number of visitors, which reached 328,000 in 2013, “says Malgorzata Kopeček, Director of the Aquapark Olomouc. “Visitors reservation by phone: 585 575 861 fb.nholomouc@jirnyhotels.com, www.aquapark.cz”

SPANISH FILMS SCREENING

Metroplex Cinema, FREE


25. 7. | 20-30 FLAMENCO GALA EVENING “SAVIA NUEVA” / KARIME-IVAN-ALBA & AMAIA-VARGAS-HEREDIA Paviloon A, Plaza Exhibition Centre, Wolkerova 17, Olomouc Entrance fee: 700, 450, 200 Kč The sale of tickets will start in the Ticketportal on May 5th 2014

Program: Do you want to visit the most visited place during your trip to the Olomouc Region? Then you should definitely lead you to the Olomouc Zoo at Svájcká Kopčák. It houses a large number of species of animals and splendid forest surrounds of the Jeseník Mountains’ foothills.

While walking through the garden you can see 1,700 animals from 350 species, feed the young goats and frogs, have fun in indoor or outdoor enclosure or climb the 32 meters high lookout tower with a magnificent view not only of the nearby basilica, but the entire surrounding of Olomouc. The new pavilion of the Amur leopard and the first of the five planned safari zones, the Eurasian one, are probably going to be this year’s biggest attractions.

In the wild, the Amur leopards are unfortunately on the verge of extinction. The Zoo engaged in rearing them nine years ago, because only in this way the new home for the most endangered sub-species of leopards in the world will provide survival chances for these beautiful animals in the wild. “Visitors will pass through caves from which there are deep windows into the leopard enclosure. From the outside on the roof of one of the caves the enclosure will lie open beneath them,” says Radomír Habáň, the Zoo’s director.

Another attraction will allow you to approach the animals as close as possible – the new safari. So far, only the Eurasia, the first of the five planned zoogeographical zones, is ready. The Eurasian population of animals is quite dangerous and so for safety reasons the safari is accessible only by train. You will see from close range not only the European bisons, who returned to the garden after a long 27 years, but also Eurasian elk, sika, West Caucasian tur, mouflon, chamois and bezoar ibex. This first stage of the safari opens a new chapter for the whole Zoo. At the birth of the safari idea were several basic conditions which attracted little interest from visitors. Eventually we have managed to transform a less attractive part of the garden into something extraordinary,” describes the birth of the safari for the whole Zoo Radomír Habáň. The total area of all five safari zones should reach 15 ha. The whole safari should grow up in Olomouc Zoo by 2017. The touch is on a stone and helps to lead the feeding of Malayan sun bears, ring-tailed coatis, Great Flamingos, Rüppell’s giraffes, Barbary lions, Bactrian camels, red kangaroos, African and Asian lions, cheetahs, meerkats, Arctic wolves and ring-tailed lemurs.

New this year is the concert on the verge of extinguition. Children can meet the animals up close, touch and feed them. They can further complete a photo contest for theater, cinema, movement and nature pictures around at the children’s ro- pes course Láncík and try out many other interesting things.

You can experience a little adrenaline rush with your kids in August on the Weekend of Records, who- se last year edition was a great success. The result of last years efforts is five new entries in the Book of Records. But also above all, high spirits that accom- panied the entire weekend. And what records were bro- ken? The number of visitors in a bison box, number of collected soccer balls for animals, number of Smurfs in the zoo, number of people participating in the race, number of animal silhouettes on a canvas or the longest cen- tipede made of PET bottles. Come and have fun this year and help to break new re- cords. We promise that both kids and parents will be en- tertained!

www.zoo-olomouc.cz

A city full of fire and colours

In the middle of the holiday season, Spain is just a stone’s throw away from Olomouc.

From July 24th to 27th, you can enjoy the Spanish culture, cuisine, movies and phenomenon flamenco dancers right in Olomouc. Colores Flamen- cos, an international festival of flamenco and Spanish culture, is one of the most important festivals of this genre in south- east and Central Europe. Besi- des Olomouc, it is also held in Ostrava. The sixth year of the festival will give you an insight into the Spanish culture by taking you on a trip to the south of Europe. As in previous years, Olomouc is going to organise all the events in the Spanish rhythms, flavors and fragrances for a few sum- mer days. You can visit the flamenco gala evening, flamenco fiesta or flamenco dance workshops. The program also includes Spanish films screening, concerts and of course the Spanish gastronomy days with the true sangria and Spanish wines.

“The festival fans can look forward to excellent artists. Af- ter the very successful concert of Paco de Lucía last year, we will see the phenomenal dancer Karime Amaya accompanied by the rising star Alba Hernández and the charismatic dancer Ivan Vargas to the Olomouc audience, “says the Fes- tival’s director Viktor Sobotka.

For more information, please visit: www.aqua-olomouc.cz

záchranář) is suitable for chil- dren aged 3–7 who may attend every weekday from June 30th to August 29th between 7:30–16:00 up to a maximum of 15 children. A group of amiable child minders will take care of the kids. There is a children’s play area with play structures available as well as a tramplin, plenty of toys, indoor and outdoor pools for swimming lessons, outdoor playground, grassy area and a paddling pool. Every day, a new rich program will be ready in the form of games, handicrafting, painting, singing, talking and frolicking. Children will learn new things and get to know new friends.

Young Rescuer (Mladý

Aquapark offers special programs for children. Photo by J. Andrášik

Would you like to ex- perience something new? Do you like competitions, water slides and water fun? Do not hesitate and sign up for the second Hanácké championship in riding a 315 meters long water slide?”

This untraditional race for both children and adults will be held on Saturday, June 28th from 11:00 to 16:00 at Aquapark Olomouc. Visitors and competitors can look forward to racing competition, confrontation of fit- ness and speed and a rich accompanying program. Minimum number of en- tries is 50 competitors in every category.

If you do not live far from Olomouc and you’re wonder- ing what will be held on Sat- urday, June 28th from 11:00 to 16:00 at Aquapark Olomouc. Visitors and competitors can look forward to racing competition, confrontation of fitness and speed and a rich accompanying program. Minimum number of entries is 50 competitors in every category.

Young Rescuer (Mladý

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Special edition 2014 | Free

Olomouc – a city of light

Olomouc will become full of light, colour and stories in September. The city is going to literally shine again. The fourth edition of Septembeam (VZA-ŘÍ), the international festival of video mapping, brings both the proven programme of teams competition in the light projections on house walls and other attractive events. The last week in September will turn into a celebration of various forms of light and colours. Once again, Olomouc will become a city of lights.

The Olomoucers already know that visual arts and light show is able to address audiences directly. People who move around the city as well as surrounding objects become part of visual stories that do not need any comments or words. You just have to look carefully and feel how light and colour can brighten up our surroundings, and what we otherwise consider a mundane backdrop of our daily life. Houses full of stories are awaiting you on Horní Square and other city streets. Buildings changing shapes, dancing palaces on the square, virtual reality and 3D stereographic projection right in front of you, fascinating animatations and stories on house walls.

The Septemberbeam festival has its competitive part introducing teams of authors from different countries. There is only one discipline – projection of stories on the facades of selected municipal palaces, or the so called video mapping. Of course, the story is always designed to maximize the architectual elements of the foyer of the Moravian Theatre on Horní Square on Friday and Saturday 26th and 28th June at 13:06 – Visitors will hear songs of Gustav and Alma Mahler with piano accompaniment. We have chosen the form of the so-called lunch concerts which are very popular abroad and we believe that we will succeed in this innovative way to approach the composer’s work in Olomouc,” explains Kateřina Zahrádková, whose agency orchestrations and stories on house walls.

In the late 19th century, the famous Czech-Austrian symphonist Gustav Mahler worked in a local theatre in Olomouc. Although this was not a very long chapter in the context of his career, yet Mahler’s name is now associated with Olomouc. The organizers of the first year of the Matinee with Gustav Mahler’s Songs would like to commemorate his person and especially his creation. You can visit these afternoon concerts in the foyer of the Moravian Theatre on Horní Square on Friday and Saturday 26th and 28th June at 13:06 – Visitors will hear songs of Gustav and Alma Mahler with piano accompaniment. We have chosen the form of the so-called lunch concerts which are very popular abroad and we believe that we will succeed in this innovative way to approach the composer’s work in Olomouc,” explains Kateřina Zahrádková, whose agency

The concert tickets entitle you to a discounted meal at one of the nearby restaurants and can be purchased at the Information Centre in the Town Hall’s arcade or before the concert in the theatre foyer.

An opera star will resound Horní Square

Continued from page 1 Concerts on Horní Square usually sold out and yours will surely be no exception. What is it like to sing for so many people? Do you still get nervous?

I always get nervous. Every time I go on stage. But that’s right, every artist would tell you the same. If I did not feel nervous, it would mean that my performance does not matter. I think we always should feel butterflies in our stomach; it is a way of opening our soul to the audience.

The concert will take place in the great hall. It is more comfortable for you to sing open-air or in concert halls? Does the concert performance mean that rank among the best and is also credited to have saved the Mfo monastery.

The International Organ Festival has already gained legendary status among Olomouc musical events. It is held at the Church of St. Maurice, on one of the largest organs in the Czech Republic, every year in September. The organ was built by Michael Engler in the 18th century. The festival has reached its forty-sixth edition this year. Although the exact program is still to be announced, the quality of the festival is well known and so the lovers of this noble instrument can already now look forward to the great music played by world masters. The festival’s concerts are very popular among listeners not only from Olomouc and surroundings but also from abroad. Olomouc has become an organ capital thanks to the festival featuring organ music masterpieces performed by the world’s leading organists every year.

The festival was established already in 1966. It was founded and successfully led by Professor Antonín Schindler who was the festival’s president and at the same time its dramaturge. Professor Antonín Schindler who was the festival’s president and at the same time its dramaturge. The festival’s concerts are very popular among listeners not only from Olomouc and surroundings but also from abroad. Olomouc has become an organ capital thanks to the festival featuring organ music masterpieces performed by the world’s leading organists every year.

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