



LÁZNĚ BĚLOHRAD

WELCOME TO LÁZNĚ BĚLOHRAD

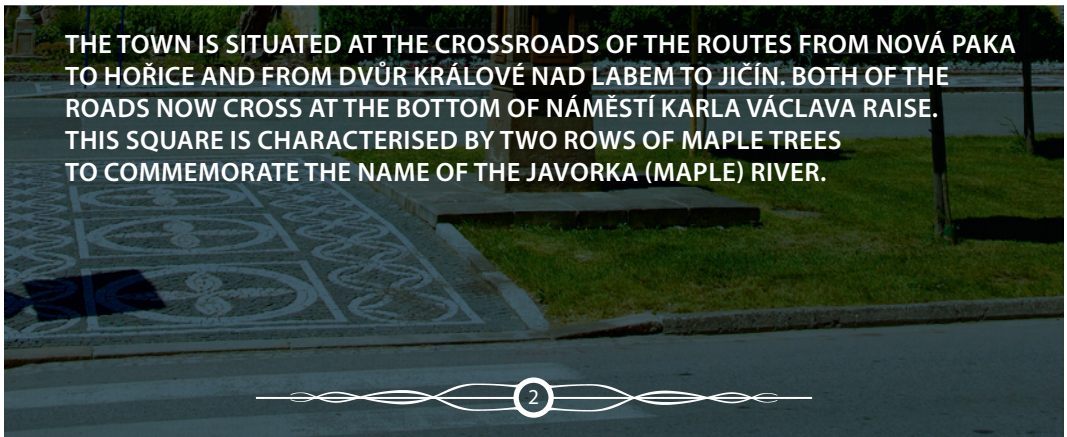
MILENA ČERNÁ

2007



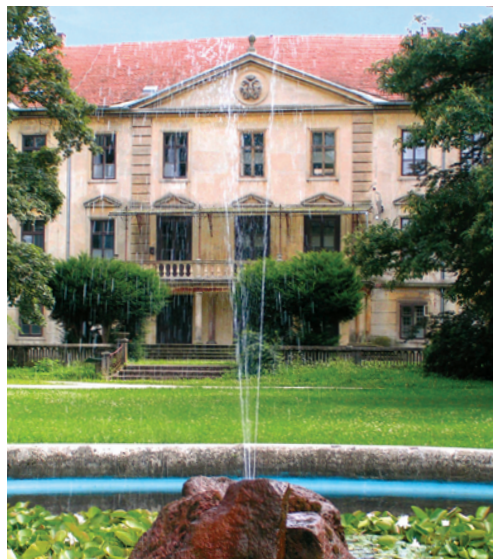


THE TOWN IS SITUATED AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE ROUTES FROM NOVÁ PAKA TO HOŘICE AND FROM DVŮR KRÁLOVÉ NAD LABEM TO JIČÍN. BOTH OF THE ROADS NOW CROSS AT THE BOTTOM OF NÁMĚSTÍ KARLA VÁCLAVA RAISE. THIS SQUARE IS CHARACTERISED BY TWO ROWS OF MAPLE TREES TO COMMEMORATE THE NAME OF THE JAVORKA (MAPLE) RIVER.





THE TOWN OF LÁZNĚ BĚLOHRAD



At first life only flourished on the north-south axis along the river bank, where a long market square was built in the section between Horní Nová Ves and Dolní Nová Ves. It was made up of two rows of houses – the First and Second Sides. It was only after Bělohrad was promoted to the status of a small town in 1722 that more extensive building work was carried out and the Third Side was set up parallel to the river Javorka; its name remains to this day. Before the middle of the 19th century the majority of the buildings in the town were timbered structures with separate rooms below them, decorated coats-of-arms facing the local road and small plots of land behind the houses. The only stone buildings were the church and the rectory.

The second axis of the town, where to the east there used to be a keep, later a château and later still the railway stations, and to the east the spa and its park, is much shorter than the longitudinal axis. The arrival of the railway foreshadowed the construction of factories in the western and northern parts of the town. The establishment of the spa led to extensive residential con-

struction work in the new spa quarter to the east of the centre. The first to be built, right at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, were the prominent buildings on the square and in Lázeňská street, which were the work of two builders – Kleček and Poličanský. In the nineteen-twenties and 'thirties work continued in the National and Constructivist styles, which shaped the town's image.

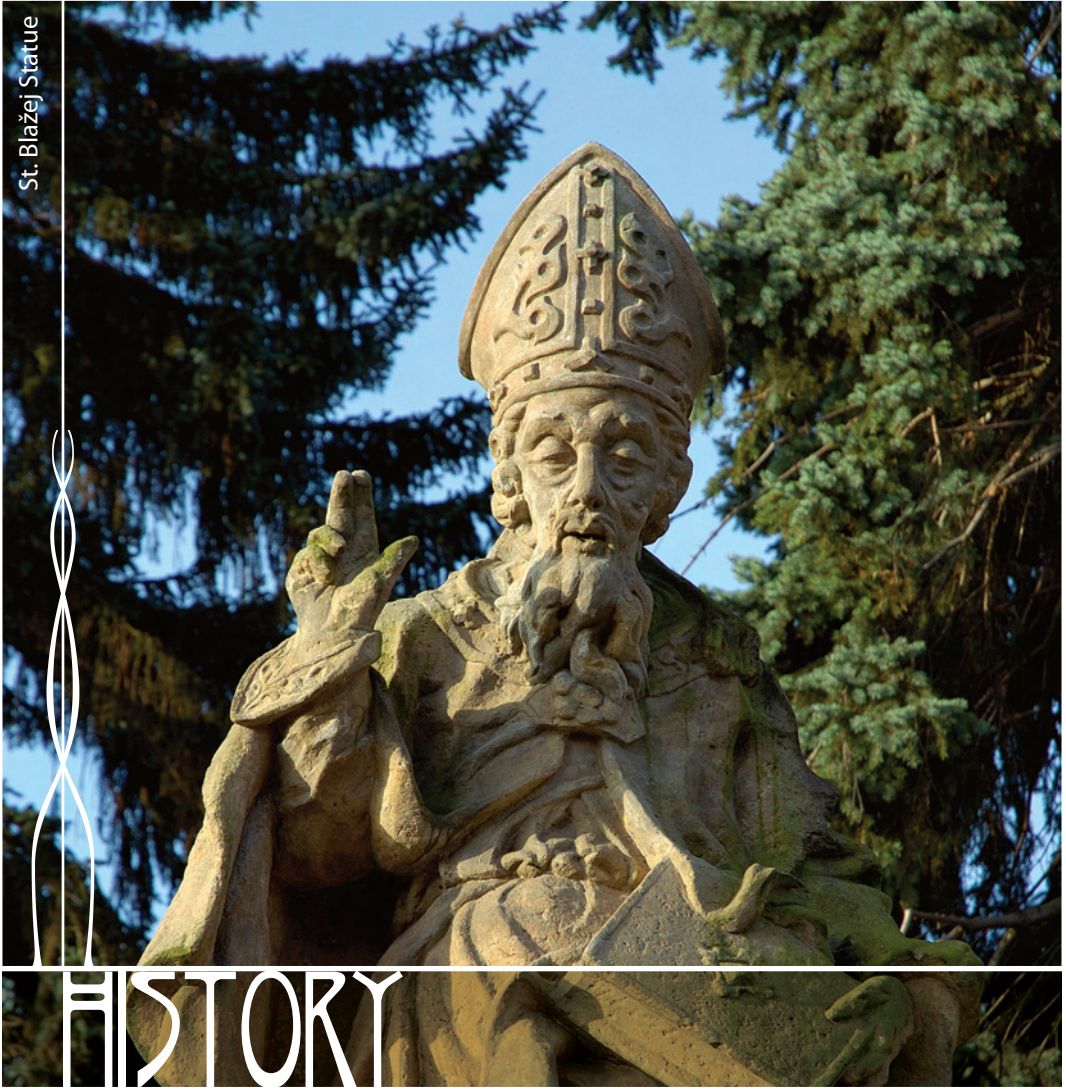
The main square is named after Bělohrad's foremost son, K. V. Rais. Historically older is the adjacent **Malé náměstí (Small Square)** with the three oldest timbered houses, which have been preserved in relatively good condition. The K. V. Rais Park opens off Malé náměstí, with the stone commemorating M. J. Hus under the lime tree dating from 1915 and with the unique **Frič Museum** from 1904, designed by the Prague architect Tilly. **All Saints' Church**, surrounded by a well-kept cemetery, was built in 1689. Anyone walking by will certainly notice the Baroque statues of **St. Blažej** by the road, sculpted by the colleagues of Matyáš Braun.

Náměstí K.V. Raise is dominated by the Neo-renaissance building of the **Spa Hotel**, dating from 1894 and containing a social room and lavish stucco decorations on the exterior. Behind the hotel is the **château park**, closed off to the south by the **château**. The château bears traces of a conversion in Baroque Gothic style by G. Santini, although the actual person behind the work has not been confirmed. These days it is owned by the town and is now a vocational boarding school. On the northern side of the château park in the former château orangery is the **K. V. Rais Memorial**, with a permanent exhibition devoted to this great local man and the history of the town. The Memorial also hosts occasional exhibitions.

Anyone walking through the town will surely recall the time depicted in Rais' novels, which made Bělohrad famous.



St. Blažej Statue



APPARENTLY, AT THE TIME OF THE GREAT MIGRATION OF NATIONS DURING THE 5TH-6TH CENTURIES THE PODZVIČINSKO REGION WAS SETTLED BY THE CHARVÁT TRIBE. THESE PEASANTS AND HUNTERS STOPPED HERE TO FIND A NEW HOME. FURTHER TO THE NORTH THERE WAS ONLY DEEP, IMPENETRABLE FOREST AND A WALL OF MOUNTAINS. A FEW SCANT FINDS SHOW THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL SLAVIC STRONGHOLDS NEARBY, WHICH THE SLAVS LATER ABANDONED. THESE WERE STRONGHOLDS IN THE PRACHOV ROCKS, HRÁDEK BETWEEN BĚLOHRAD AND ŠÁROVCOVÁ LHOTA, VALA U KALU, HRADIŠTĚ U VŘESNÍKU, BĚLUŠICE FORTRESS AND HRÁDEK U BEZNÍKU.



The first historical mention of Bělohrad concerned Nouauilla (Nová Ves or New Village) in the 13th century. In 1396 there is a mention of the Dražný keep, around which settled the populace of what was later to become Horní Nová Ves. In the middle of the 16th century there were also references to the keep and court of Koštofrank in Nová Ves and Ratensky keep in what is now Dolní Nová Ves. In 1557 there is the first instance of the name **Bielehradie** and it wasn't until 1720 that this began to alternate with the name **Neudorf seu Bielohrad** (Nová Ves or Bělohrad). In the meantime the estate changed owners. The first to be mentioned is Bořek of Poličany, followed by Petr Škopek of Bílé Otradovice; after 1625 Bělohrad fell under the ownership of the Czech Crown and was soon purchased by Albrecht of Valdštejn. The estate's most prominent owner was the imperial chamberlain and court marshal **Bertold Vilém of Valdštejn**, who in 1689 had the stone All Saints' Church built on the site of the little wooden church, at his own expense. Perhaps following plans drawn up by the leading builder of the time, **Giovanni Santini**, whom he knew well, he had the keep here converted from the foundations into a Baroque château. On May 2, 1722 Emperor Charles VI raised the status of Nová Ves to a **small town with the name of Bělohrad**, with three annual markets. After the death of Bertold the estate was inherited by his daughter Marie Alžběta, who married **Jan Arnošt Schaffgotsche**. This owner was responsible for expanding the town with the addition of the "Third Side", which he settled with inhabitants from Horní Maršov. The promotion of Bělohrad led to an increase in population and new construction work. The railway boosted the prosperity of Bělohrad in 1871. Industry began to flourish and the inhabitants were no longer as restricted to domestic production.



Another important step was the decision by the next owner of the estate, Countess **Anna of Asseburg**, to set up a municipal spa on the eastern edge of the town. This plan came to fruition in 1885. In 1901 the Anna Maria spring was discovered in Bažantnice – ferrous acidic waters containing arsenic. Like many other spas at this time, the little town saw a great boom at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Through the development period between the First and Second World Wars, which led to modernisation, through the war-time decline and the period between the end of the fifties to 1989, when the spa was used as a convalescent home for those working for the Revolutionary labour movements, the spa survived up until privatisation and became the focus of fresh development. It maintained its good reputation throughout this time. It is still called **Anenské slatinné lázně (Anne's Peat Spa)** and these days specialises in rehabilitation of the motor system, particularly for people who have undergone surgery on the joints. In 1905 the town was given the name **Lázně Bělohrad**. It received official status as a spa town in 1963 and two years later became a fully-fledged town. In 2003 the municipal emblem and ensign were confirmed by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.



Zvičina



THE LANDSCAPE

THE ROMANTIC BĚLOHRAD BASIN, NESTLED AMIDST THE RIDGES OF HILLS PROTECTING IT FROM CLIMATIC SWINGS ON VIRTUALLY ALL SIDES, IS THE IDEAL SPOT FOR NATURE LOVERS IN TERMS OF NATURAL SCIENCE AND GEOLOGY.





The surrounding foothills maintain a pleasant microclimate here. The bluish **Chlumy** in the south, the green belt of **Kamenná hůra** to the northeast, and then as if guarding the region, there looms the peak of **Zvičina**, where to the north there is a panoramic view across the entire belt of the Krkonoše. To the west rise volcanic cones with the ruins of the castles of **Kumburk** and **Bradlec**. There will be no regrets amongst those who set out for a walk to Kamenná hůra – a protected area with an ancient stand of massive beech trees. One can imagine how it looked in times gone by when the woodland covered the entire region, before the pine monocultures were planted. It is interesting to see the clumps of large pudding stones formed during the Quaternary period, forced up by the massive fist of the last Ice Age.

There are more than twenty Tertiary volcanoes around Lázně Bělohrad. Their conspicuous conical shapes are made principally of basalt – volcanic rock – in many places mined to make paving stones. The most prominent of these is **Hřídelecká horka**, which rises from the plain to a height of 398 metres above sea level where the road from Bělohrad enters the village of Hřídelec. Its inte-

rior has been almost completely mined out, but it has kept its shape and is protected as a natural monument. Hřídelec is only three kilometres from Lázně Bělohrad.

There is another natural monument next to the town, the **Bažantnice** spa park, where peat was originally extracted to be used in spa treatments. Nowadays it is a quiet and peaceful spot, interwoven with footpaths. The visitor can walk along the Alley of Sighs amongst the little peat-bog lakes in the shade of huge old pine trees. On the island in **Hraběčín Lake** there is a cross of conciliation and a kingfisher nests in the undergrowth. A ferrous spring rises in two places – by the tennis courts and “U Iva”. They can be recognised from a distance by the stylish wooden gazebos.

At the end of the Bažantnice road there is an enchanting view of the place known as **Byšičky**, a low promontory with what was originally a small Norman church and a graveyard. From here there is a beautiful view of the entire Bělohrad Basin. On the way back visitors can find respite from the full summer sun in the cool shade of **Bulice** wood. Recently the municipal office has been putting up signposts to mark the more interesting places in and around Bělohrad and benches will be set up on maintained footpaths.

We can see examples of the local geological development, minerals, animals and bird life in the **Frič Museum** near Malé náměstí in Lázně Bělohrad. Professor Antonín Frič, director of the zoological and palaeontological collection at the National Museum of Prague, set up the municipal museum on his summer visits here at the beginning of the twentieth century; he established the collections and wrote widely on the topic to enlighten visitors about the past and natural features of this area.



Anne's Peat Spa



ANNE'S PEAT SPA

THE GOLDEN KEY TO HEALTH

ANENSKÉ SLATINNÉ LÁZNĚ, a. s. (ANNE'S PEAT SPA) IS SITUATED IN THE QUIET AND PICTURESQUE LITTLE TOWN OF LÁZNĚ BĚLOHRAD. HERE, AWAY FROM THE BUSTLE OF THE CITY AND SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE, YOU CAN RELAX, GET WELL AND RECOVER YOUR STRENGTH. SPA CARE HERE HAS A TRADITION GOING BACK MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND IS BASED ON A NATURAL SOURCE OF HEALING – FERRO-SULPHUROUS MARSH PEAT.





water massage and underwater phototherapy – hydroxer. The basic philosophy behind the approach taken with patients and clients is simply the individual care provided by the highly qualified and obliging personnel. However, pleasant therapy is not all that Anne's Peat Spa is able to offer. The spa complex contains a wellness centre equipped with modern, first-rate Babor cosmetics – an Oasis of Health and Beauty, offering complete care for your body and appearance, full-body exfoliation, relaxing massage, salt, herbal and aroma baths, cosmetics, or a manicure and pedicure. A new feature is the unique, painless cellulite treatment using a Starvac appliance. For sports-minded guests there are tennis courts in the enchanting surroundings of Bažantnice natural park, an ultra-modern minigolf course, a boules pitch, a spacious swimming pool heated to 30°C with underwater jets and a pearl bench, a sauna with a pleasant rest room, a Rasulbad steam spa, mountain-bike hire and, last but not least, you can get fit with Nordic walking. There is a lot that Anne's Peat Spa can offer, just come and see for yourself.

Anenské slatinné lázně, a. s. (Anne's Peat Spa) is situated in the quiet and picturesque little town of Lázně Bělohrad. Here, away from the bustle of the city and surrounded by beautiful countryside, you can relax, get well and recover your strength. Spa care here has a tradition going back more than one hundred years and is based on a natural source of healing – ferro-sulphurous marsh peat. Clients come to the Spa and rehabilitation clinics mostly to treat illnesses of the motor system. These are mainly rheumatic diseases, back pain, Bechterew's Disease, arthritis, after injuries or orthopedic surgery, etc. One of the most sought-after treatments is hydrotherapy, applied in the form of whirlpool, pearl and additive baths, under-



Minigolf course



RECREATION & SPORT

STAYING IN LÁZNĚ BĚLOHRAD AND PASSIVELY RELAXING IS NOT REALLY POSSIBLE. THE TOWN THRIVES ON SPORT, GAMES, WALKING AND CYCLING. THERE IS A PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN YOUNG AND OLD, A VERY WELL-MAINTAINED SPORTS GROUND, A SPORTS HALL AND WALKING AND CYCLING PATHS. ANYONE WANTING TO GO SWIMMING CAN VISIT THE HEATED REHABILITATIVE SWIMMING POOL IN ANNE'S PEAT SPA, WHICH FEATURES UNDERWATER MASSAGE.





In the meadow behind the Hotel Anna Marie there is the chance to play on the modern and perfectly trimmed eighteen-hole **minigolf course**. Here visitors can spend some pleasant time exercising and enjoy some sociable entertainment.

It is tennis that has the longest tradition in the spa. Back at the start of the 20th century the first tennis court was built in Bažantnice park, and another three were later added. The legends of pre-war Czech tennis played here, Karel Koželuh, Vlasta Burian, Emil Vachek and others. Today the **tennis complex** in Bažantnice is equipped with five tennis courts, a tennis

hall, a training wall and a modern clubroom and facilities. Next to the court is a **table-tennis room**.

The sports complex also has two **volleyball courts** with a clubroom. **Football** also has a lavish tradition in the town. These days, matches are played every Saturday and Sunday on two well-maintained grass pitches. The town supports and is continually developing sports activities. In autumn 2006, behind the K. V. Rais Primary School a multipurpose **sports complex** with an artificial surface was opened for pupils to train in ball games and light athletics.

The ideal location of Lázně Bělohrad, with the immediate surroundings being not too hilly, prompts many to go cycling. Cycling fans will enjoy the branching network of **cycle paths** leading through woody valleys, alongside streams and rivulets, and the marked mountain-bike circuit, 100 km long and used for the popular "RAVO Podkrkonoše Marathon" – a mountain bike race. This race attracts several hundred riders throughout the country on the second weekend in August.

The charming landscape of the Podkrkonoše region is a popular destination for walkers, for whom the town has built the interesting **K. V. Rais Educational Trail**, from Lázně Bělohrad to Zvičina, situated at 671 metres above sea level, as well as the fun "little circuit" for children, the educational trail named **On the Trail of K. V. Rais with Children**. Anyone who sets out along the marked footpaths heading for Byšička, Hřídelec, the Krkonoše Viewpoint, to Pecka, Kumburk or Bradlec, will not be disappointed and will not get lost.

As for winter sports, the gently rolling Bělohrad Basin is best suited to cross-country skiers, who will enjoy the many kilometres of mechanically-maintained and carefully looked-after **cross-country ski** routes which intersect the most beautiful places around the town.



CULTURE

THE CULTURAL LIFE OF LÁZNĚ BĚLOHRAD CONTINUES IN THE RICH TRADITION OF REVIVALISM, INTER-WAR AND POST-WAR FEDERAL LIFE. THE FEDERATIONS, BOARDS AND ENSEMBLES THAT HAVE BEEN SET UP SINCE 1989 HAVE BECOME A LIVELY PART OF WHAT GOES ON IN THE TOWN.





The Municipal Cultural Centre provides them with suitable venues for concerts, hospitable theatrical performances and exhibitions. There is a rich tradition of summer concerts. From June to September regular **Sunday concerts** in Bažantnice create the right spa atmosphere. The legendary spa restaurant is commemorated in a week-long series of concerts named “**Bažantnice Lives On**”, which is always held in August. The best bands and orchestras play here, just as they used to.

The international song and dance festival “**Pod Zvičinou**” (**Under Zvičina**), which is regularly held near the end of June is famous around the world. Lovers of country and folk music enjoy a summer festival held at the end of July in the amphitheatre in the château park. Those who like their music a bit harder come here in August for the **Bigbeat minifestival**. There is also a diverse program of events offered in the spa’s cultural room and in the hall at the ČSAD spa hotel on the square.

Music was a feature of Bělohrad’s life back in the 18th century. Pupils with a musical education were supported by the estate’s owners, the Schaffgotsch, who later established the **Cecil Musical Congregation** at the church. In 1863 the **Vlastivoj** civil choir was founded in Bělohrad. This patriotic choir performed at the laying

of the foundation stone at the National Theatre in Prague and, of course, at numerous anti-Habsburg camps in the Podkrkonoše. In 1901, still on a composing theme, the **Malát** choir was established. After World War Two the **Jindřich Hrnčíř Brass Band** was formed, and its tradition was continued by the **Javorka Brass Band**. In 1949 in Horní Nová Ves the folklore folk group **Hořeňák** was formed and in 1975 its children’s counterpart, **Hořeňáček**. Since 1986 the **Bělohrad Women’s Choir**, set up by Zdeňek Prchal, has been performing in Bělohrad and elsewhere. In the 1990s the **Pifferaios** flute ensemble was formed and has been met with much acclaim abroad. This musical group, like the **Frič Association**, aims to enrich the cultural life of Lázně Bělohrad and invites everyone to come together and enjoy some wonderful times with music, literature and the creative arts.

Other places offering culture in Lázně Bělohrad include the **Municipal Library**, the **Frič Museum** and the **K. V. Rais Memorial**. In addition to the permanent exhibitions we can visit during the summer season, the Municipal Cultural Centre also hosts occasional exhibitions of the creative arts, folk handicrafts and folk traditions. Information about what’s on in Lázně Bělohrad is available in the **Bělohradské listy**, which comes out periodically every two months.



Member of Horeňák



HOREŇÁK

ETHNIC SONG AND DANCE GROUP

THIS GROUP WAS FORMED IN 1949 AND IT AIMS TO BUILD CREATIVELY ON THE PODKRKONOŠE FOLK TRADITION, CELEBRATE THE BEAUTY OF LIFE THROUGH DANCE, SONG AND STORYTELLING, AND TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY BY PUTTING A SMILE ON THEIR FACES.





This is accompanied by song and dance from other foothill areas of Bohemia, particularly from the Podorlicko region and the Bohemian Moravian Highlands.

The ensemble has performed and recorded for Czech television and radio. It participates in folklore festivals not only in this country, but throughout Europe, America and Asia.

HOŘEŇÁČEK



The children's folklore group Hořeňáček was formed to accompany the adult folklore ensemble Hořeňák in 1975, aiming to cultivate a natural feel for music, a sense of rhythm and a culture of movement in children. The group's goal from the very beginning was to work with folk art, to preserve the songs, dances and children's games of the Podkrkonoše and to acquaint the audience with them.

It is thanks to the children's folklore group Hořeňáček that the local cultural traditions are being preserved. The inhabitants of Bělohrad and guests at the spa always look forward to the lavish events of the "Pod Zvičinou" folklore festival, which is held for three days throughout the town, always in the middle of June.

One of those involved in its creation was the prominent Czech composer Ladislav Vycpálek (1882 – 1969), a keen collector and reworker of folk songs, who in addition to his extensive chamber work also wrote songs and choral cycles.

The ensemble currently has 45 members – musicians, singers and dancers. Its repertoire includes dance, songs and folk stories from the Podkrkonoše and the regions of Hořice and Nová Paka. The members perform in costumes derived from the traditional folk style of dress worn by the men and women of Eastern Bohemia. The group devotes special attention to the folklore of the foothills. In the many years since it was formed it has built up a colourful repertoire of music, dance and spoken word, which mainly stems from the romantic historical strata of folk culture in the Podkrkonoše.

THE "POD ZVIČINOU" INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

This is one of the oldest Czech folklore festivals, but has lost none of its appeal over the years. It is a colourful collection of folklore groups from this country and abroad. In recent years the public has been interested and delighted to see groups, for example, from the USA, Zimbabwe and the region of Yakutsk. There are always some 500 performers who take their turn on the stage. Some of them return to the spa town regularly. The "Pod Zvičinou" international festival is a real folklore occasion.



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Cuba Libre

TRES MOSQUITOS

