EXCURSIONS

A CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT OF CZECHIA

Excursion: Historic Prague city tour I and II

doc. RNDr. Miroslav Marada, Ph.D.

Wednesday, March 28th, 3 – 6.30 pm & Wednesday, April 4th, 3 – 6 pm

In 1100 years lasting history, Prague has become a treasury of architecture, today protected by UNESCO within the World heritage list. An aim of the two-part walking tour is to discover main Prague historic monuments and learn to distinguish principal architectural styles. And, have a nice time in this splendid city as well!

First day we will meet examples of Romanesque and Gothic styles (rotunda of Holy Cross, remains of Romanesque house; Old Town Square with Astronomical clock, Týn Church, Charles Bridge). After crossing the bridge, we are expected for opening dinner at the Konírna (Stable) Restaurant.

Beginning: Wednesday, March 28th, 3 pm, Albertov, American Term classroom

The second day will elucidate Prague renaissance and baroque architecture at Malá Strana (Lesser Town) and Prague castle area. We will see Royal Garden with Summer Palace of queen Anna, Prague castle courtyards and the Vrtba garden or St. Nicolas Church interior (depends on the weather). We will finish the tour with a glass of superb Czech beer.

Beginning: Wednesday, April 4th, 3 pm, Albertov, American Term classroom

B THE POSTSOCIALIST CITY

Excursion: Mirrors of contemporary urban and metropolitan restructuring

prof. RNDr. Luděk Sýkora, Ph.D.

Friday, April 6th, 10 am – 3 pm

- bus excursion, departure: Albertov 6, at 10 am
- diversified suburban experience: visit to suburban sites in southwestern suburban areas in Prague metropolitan area to show not only the examples of spatially fragmented pattern of suburban sprawl with mono-functional land-uses requiring car as the only transport mean but also cases of more compact, transit-oriented and functionally more complex suburban developments, furthermore, we will encounter suburbs of differing socio-economic profiles
• emerging intra-neighborhood social and ethnic diversity: visit to Praha-Libuš, an emerging multicultural neighborhood with an increasing proportion of Vietnamese and Sapa Cultural and Trade center, the largest retail and wholesale center of Vietnamese in central Europe

**Excursion and social event: Pivovar (Brewery) Uhříněves and Pivovarská restaurace**

Friday, April 6\(^{th}\), 3 pm – 8 pm

• guided excursion in brewery ([http://www.upiva.cz/](http://www.upiva.cz/)) including beer tasting (1.5 hour)


**D MIGRATION AND SOCIAL MINORITIES**

**Excursion 1: Visit to flats – Praha 12, Modřany**

*prof. RNDr. Dušan Drbohlav, CSc.*

Monday, April 9\(^{th}\), 4 – 7 pm

There will be a unique opportunity to see how Czechs live. Two different flats in two different buildings (a family house versus housing estate/development) built in two different eras (1930s versus 1980s) will be shown. Moreover, there will be a chance to speak with members of the families that share living in these flats and ask them about their living style and conditions.

**Excursion 2: Trip to Ajeto glassmaking workshops (Lindava) and to the Museum of Glass and Jewellery (Jablonec nad Nisou)**

*prof. RNDr. Dušan Drbohlav, CSc.*

Tuesday, April 10\(^{th}\), 7.30 am – 7 pm

Glass production has been a very important industry but also “art” in Bohemia for a long time. It is something what the Czech nation can be proud of. Bohemian glass, chiefly referred to as Bohemia crystal, is glass produced in the regions of Bohemia and Silesia, now parts of Czechia. It has centuries long history of being internationally recognized for its high quality, craftsmanship, beauty and often innovative designs. Hand-cut, engraved, blown and painted decorative glassware ranging from champagne flutes to enormous chandeliers, ornaments, figurines and other glass items are among the best known Czech exports and immensely popular as tourist souvenirs. Czechia is home to numerous glass studios and schools attended by local and foreign students.

Oldest archaeological excavations of glass-making sites date to around 1250 and are located in the Lusatian Mountains of Northern Bohemia. Most notable Czech sites of glass-making throughout the
EXCURSIONS

Pages are Skalice (German: Langenau), Jablonec nad Nisou, Železný Brod, Poděbrady, Karlovy Vary, Kamenický Šenov (German: Steinschönau) and Nový Bor (German: Haida). Several of these towns have their own glass museums with many items dating since around 1600. Jablonec nad Nisou in particular is famous for the local tradition of manufacturing glass costume jewelry. Its long history is documented by large collections in the Museum of Glass and Jewelry in Jablonec nad Nisou.

Bohemia became famous for its beautiful and colorful glass during the Renaissance. The history of Bohemian glass started with the abundant natural resources found in the countryside. Bohemian glass-workers discovered potash combined with chalk created a clear colorless glass that was more stable than glass from Italy. In the 16th century the term Bohemian crystal emerged for the first time in history to distinguish its qualities from the glass coming from other places. This glass contained no lead as is commonly suspected. This Czech glass could be cut with a wheel. In addition, resources such as wood for firing the kilns and for burning down to ashes were used to create potash. There were also copious amounts of limestone and silica. In the 17th century, Caspar Lehmann, gem cutter to Emperor Rudolf II in Prague, adapted to glass the technique of gem engraving with copper and bronzewheels. During the era, the Czech lands became the dominant producer of decorative glassware and the local manufacture of glass earned international reputation in high Baroque style from 1685 to 1750.

Czech glassware became as prestigious as jewelry and was sought-after by the wealthy and the aristocracy of the time. Czech crystal chandeliers could be found in the palaces of the French king Louis XV, Maria Theresa, Empress of Austria, and Elizabeth of Russia.

Bohemia turned out expert craftsmen who artfully worked with crystal. Bohemian crystal became famous for its excellent cut and engraving. They became skilled teachers of glass-making in neighboring and distant countries. By the middle of the 19th century, a technical glass-making school system was created that encouraged traditional and innovative techniques as well as thorough technical preparation. In the second half of the 19th century, Bohemia looked to the export trade and mass-produced colored glass that was exported all over the world. Pairs of vases were produced either in a single color of opaque glass or in two-color cased glass. These were decorated in thickly enameled flower subjects that were painted with great speed. Others were decorated with colored lithographic prints copying famous paintings. These glass objects were made in huge quantities in large factories and were available by mail order throughout Europe and America. Many of them were not fine art but provided inexpensive decorative objects to brighten up ordinary homes. Reverse glass painting was also a Czech specialty. The image is carefully painted by hand on the back of a pane of glass, using a variety of techniques and materials, after which the painting is mounted in a beveled wooden frame.

Glass artisanship remained at a high level even under the communist era because it was considered ideologically innocuous and it helped promote the good name of the country. Czech glass designers and manufacturers enjoyed international recognition and Czech glassware including art works such as sculptures was displayed and awarded in many international exhibitions, most notably in Expo 58 world fair in Brussels and in Expo 67 in Montréal.

Today, Czech crystal chandeliers hang, for example, in Milan's La Scala, in Rome's Teatro dell' Opera, in Versailles, in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg or in the royal palace in Riyadh. Various
sorts of glassware, art glass, ornaments, figurines, costume jewellery, beads and others also remain internationally valued.

**Ajeto glassmaking workshops; history of the Ajeto Group**

The Ajeto glassworks with its official fourteen years’ history is a relative newcomer to the heartland of Bohemian glassmaking region famed and renowned for many passed centuries. Right from it’s very beginnings, Ajeto is a place from where exquisite glass creations reach out to the world of art and design, now for well over ten years.

The phenomenon of Ajeto unique style and international renown, was conjured up by the unique trio of Bořek Šípek, Petr Novotný and Libor Fafala, during the era before the veil Iron Curtain was torn down in the Czechoslovak Velvet revolution of 1989. In 1994, the Ajeto glassworks has moved to its current location – Lindava, a humble little village tucked-away in the hilly landscape of the Northern Bohemian forests. Lindava with about 450 inhabitants, has since moved on from a place barely known by the average Czech native, to become a location visited and loved by many a renowned glass craftsmen and artists, as well as celebrities from other walks of life, designers, architects, fashion designers, performing artists, musicians, actors, film directors - masters of trades and arts of all kinds. The dream of Ajeto only truly materialized when its current Lindava incarnation was raised out of the ruins of a once famous German textiles factory that fell into disuse during the long reign of Czechoslovak totalitarian establishment. The factory came back to life during autumn of 1994, architected in Borek Šípek’s unique style. Through Ajeto the little place Lindava has become a mixing-pot of world cultures, nations, arts and crafts, its repute reaching far beyond the borders of the Czech Republic, beyond Europe. It is a place sought by cream of the world glass art crop.

Borek Šípek as the art-director has been challenging the glass craftsmen and technologists with his ideas since the very birth of Ajeto. The realization of Borek’s designs has only been possible thanks to Petr Novotny’s world-renown hot-glass artianship (Petr Novotny is ranked among three world celebrities in the field of glass art craft by experts) and Libor Fafala’s unequalled skills in all facets of glass manufacture technology. The relentless push for more intricate, complex and awe-inspiring designs continues to drive the glassmaking skills and technologies to an art-form of its own. Ajeto has grown to become a place where the ideas of Bořek Šípek as well as many other designers and artists come to life.

The fast-track to success and world renown would never be possible without the skill and craft of Ajeto’s glassworkers and their daily toil with the unique and seemingly uncontrollable medium. Only through persistence and hard work is it possible to fulfil the often outrageously crazy wishes, dreams and demands of the artists.

For those fortunate enough, a visit to Ajeto is an eye-opening experience, especially when visiting a glass-works for the first time. Within a two-hour leisurely drive from the Czech capital Prague, Ajeto makes for a perfect weekend day-trip. Even before entering the glass-works itself, visitors can admire the glass sculptures exhibited outside the factory, each piece being a unique creation contributed by some of the world’s most famous glass artists. Featured among these are works by Dale Chihuly from the USA, G.M.C.M. Jilsen from the Netherlands, Rob Stern from USA, or Bořek Šípek himself. Despite all that’s been said, the focus at Ajeto is on the work at hand, the required concentration takes first
priority in realization of the never ceasing flow of prestigious commissions. In return for the efforts, the glass-workers rarely have lack of interesting and challenging work.

Trying to sum-up the specific past achievements of Ajeto would be a hard task for anyone. Only during Bořek Šípek’s post as the Prague Castle architect, named by then Czech President Vaclav Havel, Ajeto has played a key role in the refurbishment of the presidential offices by realizing the architectural glass, chandeliers, lighting fixtures, tableware and a wide range of furniture fittings designed by Bořek Šípek. Most importantly Ajeto glass has represented the Czech Republic on numerous occasions in the form of official presidential gifts, now taking place of honor in the collections of presidents, and royals all over the world, to name just a few, the ex-president of the United States of America Bill Clinton, the French president Jacques Chirac, the Lebanese president Emil Lahud, His Royal Highness King Harald V of Norway, Her Imperial Highness Princess Sayako of Japan, and Her Royal Highness Princess Caroline of Monaco. Ajeto and Bořek Šípek glass also has a place in the collections of Mick Jagger, Bob Dylan, fashion designers Karl Lagerfeld or Jean Paul Gaultier, as well as the Czech celebrities Václav Havel, Halina Pawlovská, Marta Kubišová, Jan Tříska, Michael Kocáb and many others. Amongst the past Ajeto projects worthy a note is the Skoda stand at the 2000 World EXPO in Volfsburg. The monumental lighting fixtures and architectural glass elements designed by Bořek Šípek were only made possible by the skill and innovation of the Ajeto craftsmen.

A recent addition to the long list of major projects is the Czech Airlines Sky Team Crystal Lounge at the Prague International airport, designed by Bořek Šípek. Ajeto produced a bright mix of vases, tables, and furniture parts creating the glamorous yet relaxed atmosphere of the Crystal Lounge.

The beginning of 2005 was marked by a major glass installation commissioned by Zepter International. Ajeto manufactured 15 meters long and 3.5 meters wide chandelier for the Beograd Opera house, again designed by Bořek Šípek.

Over the years of its existence, Ajeto has been the glass-studio of choice for the Czech art-glass pioneer René Roubiček. It is at Ajeto that René Roubiček created many of his works that now grace the exhibition halls of world’s major art institutions and numerous private collection across the globe.

Glass made at Ajeto has entered the pages of glass-art history at the hands of Dale Chihuly, hundreds of glass-components for his installations were realized at Ajeto. Two of the jewels of the world’s oceans, the liners Carnival Pride and Carnival Spirit are embellished by hundreds of glass creations from the Ajeto glassworks. For several years now, Bořek Šípek’s collections made at Ajeto have successfully featured among the offerings of the world-renowned design label Rosenthal. This year’s Rosenthal collection is an unequalled show of Borek’s fresh style and unmatched skill of Ajeto craftsmen.

Through the 20 years long relationship between Bořek Šípek and the exclusive Italian design label Driade, Ajeto glass has become an inseparable part of the Driade collections. Driade currently offers nearly 100 unique Ajeto design pieces. To work with Ajeto, for Ajeto, or having just a hint of association with the glassworks commands professional respect of the highest regard world-wide. Ajeto is not just a place to do one’s work, it is a lifestyle.
There will be the unique opportunity to see over the glassworks including the hotshop in Lindava closely by own eyeball. With a professional interpretation, you will have a unique chance to observe the hot fluid glass mass changing into the delicate beauty in hands of the masters glassblowers.

**Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou**

Promoted by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. Established in 1904. The only museum specializing in glass and costume jewelry in Czechia. It was awarded the 1st price in the Gloria Musaealis competition for the Best Museum Initiation in 2004 and was also nominated for the European Museum competition in 2005. The Museum of Glass and Jewelry exhibits its collections in two architecturally interesting buildings.

The main building presents the best exhibits from large collection sets of glass, costume jewelry, coins, medals and plaques. The headquarters and a library specialized in historic and current documents on glass and costume jewelry industry, art glass and jewelry are also placed here.

**Excursion 3: Queer Prague – past and present**

*RNDr. Michal Pitoňák, Ph.D. & Lukáš Pitoňák, M.Arch.*

Wednesday, April 11th, 5 – 8 pm

Prague, has been central European node of sexual diversity and freedom for over a century, it is today well known as either European “sex-capital”, “porn-industry hot point” or simply as “gay” city. Our excursion will provide a peak into its vivid queer history as well as into the taste of former persecution of “homosexuals”. How did non-heterosexual people adjust their spatial lives to evade persecution in the past. How did they socialize without the internet? We will examine and discuss changes that occurred in the city and experience how non-heterosexuals lived their liminal lives yet being monitored by authorities during the communist regime. Some of the places we visit still exist while some of them will be called to mind only through the narration. We will end the excursion by a discussion in one of many popular “gay venues”, allowing us to experience a non-heteronormative contemporary space and hopefully address and discuss some of more-less pervasive stereotypes that revolve around these spaces.

**F ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY**

**Excursion 1: Energetics – brown coal mining area**

*RNDr. Ludvík Kopačka, CSc.*

Friday, April 13th, 8 am – 7 pm

Main aims of excursion:
1. History, present, and future of mining and consumption of brown-coal as well as of recultivation activities and environment in the region of North Bohemian Brown Coal Basin, especially in Most area (Vršanská uhelná Company).

2. History, present, and future of the production of electricity and heat by steam brown-coal power plants (Počerady).

**Short description of visited places and areas:**

**MOST – Vršanská uhelná, a.s. Most (Vršany brown coal Company)**

Individual places and areas of past and contemporary mining activities and reclamation create core of our excursion and will be guided by skilled expert in mining and reclamations from the Vršany brown coal company. The program consists from several topics:

- open-cast mine Vršany – view point, brown coal mining
- past and contemporary reclamations (Velebudice dump with hippodrome)

**MOST – the transferred church and former open-cast mine Ležáky with Lake Most**

The historical medieval town Most was destroyed and demolished and new town Most built, but the main reason for this tragedy was exploitation of rich deposits of quality brown coal a few meters under the earth (town) surface only since 70’s. It was decided save the late gothic church and this building was transferred by special train by approximately 800 meters to new contemporary site. Own transport took place 30.9.-27.10.1975.

**MOST – climbing of the volcanic hill Hněvín**

The summit of the hill Hněvín with the castle introduces the best view-point and offers an overlook on the Most and surrounding mountains (granite Krušné hory – Ore Mountains and volcanic České středohoří – Middle Bohemian Mountains) and industrial landscape (mining „moon landscape“, recultivated dumps, industrial plants – especially chemical ones).

**Excursion 2: Automotive Industry – Škoda Auto**

*prof. RNDr. Petr Pavlínek, Ph.D.*

Thursday, April 19th, 12.30 – 7 pm

We will travel to the city of Mlada Boleslav to visit the car assembly complex of Škoda Auto. It is the largest carmaker in Czechia, which produced 765 thousand cars in 2016. We will visit the Škoda Museum to learn about more than 100 years of history of Škoda, the third oldest automaker in Europe, which has been owned by German Volkswagen since 1991. Then, we will visit one of the Škoda Auto factories and observe the vehicle assembly or the production of car bodies.
Excursion: Karlín: from 19th century suburb to gentrified inner city neighbourhood

doc. RNDr. Martin Ouředníček, Ph.D. & RNDr. Lucie Pospíšilová, Ph.D.

Wednesday, April 18th, 1.30 – 6.30 pm

Karlín is one of the most interesting neighbourhoods of inner city Prague having changed its functions several times during the last 200 years. Before the industrialization wave, it was used for military purposes (as a training ground and for accommodation war invalids). Since the mid-19th century the industrialization brought factories as well as new housing for workers and created the structure of neighbourhood which is recognizable in the built environment up to these days. After the World War II, the quarter experienced deterioration under socialism caused by the underinvestment to the existing housing stock and gradual decline of population social status. Extensive Prague floods in 2002 which touched it with high intensity meant a breakthrough moment in its history and accelerated starting transformation in many parts of the neighbourhood. Since then we witness a variety processes there: revitalization, gentrification and new commercial development connected with the improvements of the physical environment, displacement of low status residents and emergence of services for new residents and users. However, as a consequence of selective character of revitalization processes some parts of the neighbourhood still “wait” to be affected by them.

The aim of the excursion is to show a mosaic of social worlds of this transforming working class neighbourhood from the 19th century. We point to the pertaining polarization and differentiation on the micro-level in case of the population structure as well as functions of different localities. This leads to the creation of different temporal rhythms in various parts of Karlín.

Throughout the excursion we visit these places:

- new commercial development
- Přístav 186 00
- Invalidovna – the house for war invalids from 18th century
- small panel housing estate from 1960s
- Vltava river
- View from Olympic hotel
H RURAL GEOGRAPHY, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES & TOURISM

Excursion 1: Second Homes (Praha – Posázaví – Povltaví – Kocába Regions – Praha)

RNDr. Jiří Vágner, Ph.D.

Monday, April 23rd, 1 – 5.30 pm

• Field trip into southern hinterland of Prague (40–50 km from the city center)
• Second home development – view at the place of the first tramping commune Ztracenka
• Agri-tourism facility – Nedvězí – conversion of rural functions from productive to consumption
• Tourism and recreational settlements at the Vltava artificial lakes (Slapy, Štěchovice), explanation at the Ždáň view
• Walk through tramping, cabin and garden allotment localities at the Kocába river – development of second home movement before, under and after the totalitarian regime

Excursion 2: Southern Moravia & Slovakia

RNDr. Jiří Vágner, Ph.D. & doc. RNDr. Ivan Bičík, CSc.

Tuesday, April 24th, 8.30 am – Thursday, April 26th, 4.30 pm

Excursion is focused on three crucial topics:

• Agriculture in different natural conditions - in hilly land of the Vysočina Region as well as in the most productive Southern Moravia with the explanation of structure, changes and barriers in these regions.

• Different tourism, recreation and leisure forms for foreign tourists as well as domestic visitors - historical monuments (Brno; UNESCO World Heritage - Třebíč) and nature monuments and environmental and conservation policy (Podyjí National Park).

• Excursion to Bratislava and Gabčíkovo - artificial lake on the Danube at the Slovak border territory (the other part Nagymaros in Hungary has not been finished). Nature conservation as a geopolitical issue in the Central Europe.

Tuesday, April 24th

8.30 am Departure by coach from Praha – Opatov (“C” metro line)
11.30 am Znojmo – walk in the historical and tourist center of Southern Moravia and borderland with Austria – Romanesque round chapel, view at the Dyje valley; 1 pm lunch
2 – 4.30 pm Podyjí National park headquarters – discussion and field walk (Havraníky Moor) with assistant managers D. Grossmann and R. Stejskal – management and activities in the National Park
Excursion 1: Nové Mlýn reservoir – environmental effects; Mikulov region; Lednice-Valtice UNESCO World Heritage – park architecture

7 pm Kobyli – wine region; dinner and accommodation

Wednesday, April 25th

8.30 am Departure by coach from Kobyli to Slovakia
10.30 am Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros artificial lake – environmental issues and problems; political border disputes under and after totalitarian regime; guided by dr. Marcel Horňák, Komenský University, Bratislava
12.30 pm Lunch in a typical Hungarian-style pub
2.30–4.30 pm Bratislava – walk in the historical and tourist center of the capital of Slovakia
7 pm Dinner and wine tasting with folk music in Kobyli

Thursday, April 26th

9 am Departure by coach to Brno
10 am Brno – second biggest city in Czechia; historical center walk; lunch
1.30 pm Třebíč – UNESCO World Heritage historical and tourist center – walk in the Jewish quarter
4.30 pm Arrival at Praha – Albertov

Excursion 3: The geography of profits, politics and natural risks: waterfront transformations; postsocialist governance; gentrification; large urban developments; flood risks; watercourse modifications

Mgr. Branislav Machala, RNDr. Jana Bernsteinová, Ph.D.

Friday, April 27th, 1.30 – 6 pm

Karlin and Holešovice are part of Prague’s inner city. Going back to the period of industrialization, both areas were till the early 1990s dominated by industry and working class housing. The relocation of industrial functions created space for new commercial developments. Arguably, the speed of these changes was accelerated by the 2002 floods, which led to the displacement of poorer inhabitants and were followed by massive investments in public infrastructure. The field trip with Czech and American students combines visits of important examples of industrial architecture that was adapted for new usages with a group exercise and meetings with representatives of various stakeholders who influence the direction of development in the triangle between commercial pressures, citizen resistance, and official development visions. Relevance and impacts of the major flood on transformations of this part of the city will be explored as well. Particular attention in this respect will be paid to the triggering factors of hydrological, geological and geomorphological origin. The tour will be concluded with the visit of a former industrial space in Holešovice that has been adapted for cultural purposes.