

The Baltic's Roads or Estonians in Praegue

The hike for Estonian 100th anniversary celebration (Declaration of Independence 24. 2. 1918)

Date: 24. 4. 2018

Start: The tram station near the Estonian Street Ruská

Agenda: Modrý dům, Estonian - Czech Club, address: Na Špejcharu 3.

Duration: 10,5 km

Start your hiking until the crossroad and cross the main road. Continue up the stairs until you reach the block of villas. Turn right onto Na Šafránci street and take the first left onto Estonská street (1). From there the first street left (Hradešinská street), continue until the park: on your right, house No. 3 is the Latvian Embassy (2). In the park, take the first right and pass the Husova Church, until you see a water tower on Korunní street (3). Cross this street as well and continue hiking by walking downwards until the crossroad on Slezská street. From here take a left turn and continue on that street until Náměstí Míru, feel free to take a slight detour and visit Svatopluk Čechi, orchard, that run parallel with the street.

Walk through Náměstí Míru court and continue downwards on Anglická Street (on the right of Jugoslávská Street, on which runs the tram towards I. P. Pavlova). Stay on the right side of the street. On the other side of the crossroad, on Balbinova Street, you will find on the wall of the first house, a memorial plate that is dedicated to the National Awakening of Lithuania (4). Continue along Anglická Street until you reach the crossroad where trams run (Škrétova Street). From here make a right turn and walk until the next crossroad. Then walk down the stairs, diagonally, into the park that sits behind Národní Museum. Go through the tunnel, you will reach the old building of the Národní Museum, pass it and walk in front of the Národní Museum (used to be the Federal Assemble, after that was here Radio Free Europe). (5) Take the crossing and walk into Václav Square, walk down to the end of the street. Continue the hike by crossing the road at Můstek. Then take the first street to the left (Rytířská): on the right side of it, in house No. 25, is the Hungarian Cultural Center. (6). Continue walking until you reach Uhelný trh (Charcoal market) and continue along Martinska Steet, on your left. Right before St Martina's Church, make a left turn and walk through until Národní Street. From here take the first right and continue the journey towards Vltava River. Before reaching the river, you will find house No. 11, where is Národní kavárna (cafe) (7). On the left side, one should not leave unnoticed the National Theatre (8). Cross the Legion Bridge and immediately take a left turn onto Janáčkovo nábřeží. Then continue along the second street, on the right side (Vodní), until you reach the end where you will find Švandovo Theatre in front of you (9). Stand facing the theatre, turn right, and continue along the main road, where trams run as well (walk about 1 km). While crossing the first road, you will pass the Kinsky Gardens (10). After passing the first block of houses, you can enhance your journey by walking slightly up the mountain towards the left, walking through the alley of Statues of the Totalitarian Victims. At the end of the alley you should find your way back to main street called Újezd. Continue walking straight, on the right side of the street. After going through the arch, you will reach the Museum of Music, where Újezd ends and Karmelická starts: the first house on your right, house No 8, is the Rohanský Palace, where at the moment is situated the Educational, Youth and Sports Ministry (MŠMT) (11). Continue straight until Malostranské Square, here take an immediate left at the arcade. You will reach the end of the walkway where you will take a right turn and walk past the Lichtenštejn Palace, staying on the left side (12), once passed the palace, walk down the hill, keeping towards the right. Walk to the tram stop, cross it and walk until you reach Mostecká Street, moving towards Karl's Bridge. Right before reaching the bridge, turn right onto Lázeňská Street. Continue along this street until taking a left turn onto Velkopřevorské Square, from there cross the small pedestrian bridge Čertovka. After this, take the next right, where you will find yourself at the start of Na Kampě Street. The first building on the left is the Embassy of Estonia (13). Walk back, going under

Karl's Bridge, and then take a right onto U Lužického Seminar Street. Continue strolling along this street until Klárova Park and from there walk to the metro station Malostranská. Continue straight, walking slightly upwards the hill on Klarovi Street (trams run there), until hotel Hoffmeister (14). You can make this journey especially pleasant by walking through the neighbouring parks. To take this beautiful detour, walk up the pedestrian staircase next to Hotel Hoffmeister. Continue straight, walk under a small bridge, then on your right you will reach another bridge which you will cross. In the park turn left onto the Prague Panorama Viewing Platform. After taking in the sights continue along the concrete walkway until the sculpture of J. Zeyeri, stay on the right. Walk up the stairs for roughly 50 meters, then cross a bridge (pass from the right side!) (15). After walking around the sculpture, find your way back onto the little bridge. Cross the bridge, on the left come back to the place on the pedestrian walkway where from you initially walked onto the bridge. Now stand facing away from this bridge and continue walking upwards the street in front of you (where also run trams towards Hradčanská). In about 200 meters you will find in front of you the strictly guarded Embassy of Israel building. Right before reaching the embassy, take a right onto Na Špejcharu Street, house No. 3. This is the final point of the city hike, congratulations, see you inside! There will be arrows to guide you. (16)

- 1) Estonská street
- 2) Latvian Embassy
- 3) Water Tower (Pumphouse). In the street Korunni No 75 is located Restaurace u Vodárny. The Estonian club has organised several jubilee events here.
- 4) A memorial plaque - in the house on the corner Anglické and Balbínovy street he lived at the end of the 19th century (Lithuanian National Awakening period), doctor Jonas Basanavičius, who published the first Lithuanian newspaper in Prague Aušra.
- 5) National Museum. The new Národní museum building – the office of the designated ambassador I. Zajedova's was located in the TV Federal Assembly in 1991-1992. V. Macura and I. Zajedova collected Prague's public gathered signatures at the Smetana theatre next door to support Estonia in regaining its independence in 1990. The signatures were sent to the Helsinki Final Act in '75 inst. At a later time the Radio Free Europe, who also broadcasted shows for Estonia in the Estonian language, had the headquarters in the Federal Assembly. The exhibition „The independent theatre of Estonia“ was organised by the Czech-Estonia club in Feb./Mar. 1998.
- 6) Hungarian Cultural Centrum - Many culture nights for the public were organised by the Czech-Est club in the Hungarian Cultural Centre in 2010. CEK-TEK opened the exhibition „Map Map// Card Card“ in house No 31 on the same street (Rytířka).
- 7) Národní kavárna (café) – this was the meeting point for Estonians during the Second World War. The theatre „Viola“ in the neighbouring house No. 7 was used by Estophile Vladimir Macura for poetry nights in 1988-1992. Nowadays you can see the Estonian actress Lilian Malkina perform in some of the plays here. In the neighbouring Czech Academy of Sciences the Czech-Estonian club organised the first Estonian days in Prague, where two exhibitions were set up: EV Academy of Science and Livonian Chronicles of Times in collaboration with CZ Science Academy and the National Library. A historical lecture took place during the Estonian days.
- 8) National Theatre. During the years 1981-1997 the Estonian Iivi Zajedova was a member of the Czech National theatre ballet company. The 1983 opera „Prodána nevěsta „ (Smetana „The sold fiancé“9 was played by opera singer Anu Kaal (from Estonia) as Marenka and I. Zajedova as the ballerina. One may point out the peculiarity that there were two Estonians taking part in the same show in the National theatre of Prague.
- 9) Švandovo divadlo (theatre) – Estophil Vladimir Macura founded the Baltic Union Organization, which mainly introduced the literature of Baltic countries, in 1974. Later on in February 1991 the Czech-Est club was founded on the Res Baltica event in the same theatre. On the same evening, where among the guests was the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and some of the Charta 77 members. In the performance were shown parts of the impact of the secret Molotov-Ribbendrop Pact and the reasons of the occupation and execution.
- 10) Kinského zahrada (gardens) – TEK in collaboration with the Dance museum of Estonia and EV Embassy organised an exhibition along with a lecture in the Kinskite summergarden housemuseum in 2017.
- 11) Rohanský Palace- previously known as Kuronský Palace, which used to belong to the crown nobility during the years 1799-1811 (Kuronsko used to be autonomous in the framework of the Lithuanian

Principality, respectively Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Princes also owned other lands in Czech, for instance Náchod and Ratibořice Castles, and the daughter of the last Prince Petra Birona's name was Kateřina Vilemína Zaháňská, known as Madam Princess in the book *Babička*, written by Boženy Němcové.

12) Liechtenstein Palace – HAMU: Music Academy HAMU and University of Tallinn started their collaboration in 2008. The Czech-Est club organised Estonian days, which were dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, in February 2018. There was a ceremonial concert, opening day of the exhibition, screening of the film „Spring“ and other University of Tallinn students' films, various workshops.

13) Estonian Embassy - The Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in Prague from 1997 – House near the Blue Fox derives from the 17th century.

14) Hotel Hoffmeister– The president of EV Lennart Meri met with the Baltic Union, the Estonian- Czechoslovakia Association and Czech-Estnian club members. The president was astonished that for the first time in Central Europe he had the chance to hear the Estonian anthem in Estonian. L. Meri was the first official visit of Estonian president of Estonia.

15) Monument J. Zeyera-Pomník Julia Zeyera in Chotkových Gardens, on which are depicted Olgerda Gejštor and Annu Jagellonskou (Olgerd Gejštor is Zeyerovo epic work in an environment of Lithuania).

16) Modrý dům/St Jacobs Church – the address of the Czech-Estonian club which was founded in February 1991 by Iivi Zájedová. Antonin Drábek became the club's first chairman. The purpose of the club was to support the attempt of re-establishing independence in the Baltic states, during the time when they were under the USSR occupation. Many members of the Baltic Union entered the club in the first year of the foundation, e.g. Naděžda Slabihoudová, Vladimír Macura, Jonatan Tomeš, Pavel Stoll. The club published the magazines „Estonia“ and „Baltica,“ which passed on news from Estonia and afterwards the publishing office Balt-East was founded by Antonin Drábek. The club members also organized bigger events for the public to introduce Estonia's culture. The Czech-Est club has an annual meeting in Modry dum.

Reading material:

A collection of articles: *Malé Estonsko v Česku*, Balt-East, 2008

Iivi Zájedová: *Pobaltská regionální spolupráce*, Karolinum 2006

F. R. Kreutzwald: *Báchorky ze země tisíce ostrovů*, Balt – East, 2000, překlad: Naděžda Slabihoudová

The hike was prepared by Veronika Škvárová and Iivi Zájedová