

Nomination of  
**The GREAT**  
**SPAS** *of Europe*



for inclusion on the  
**World Heritage**  
**List**

Volume I: *Mariánské Lázně*, Czech Republic





Singing Fountain  
on the main colonnade

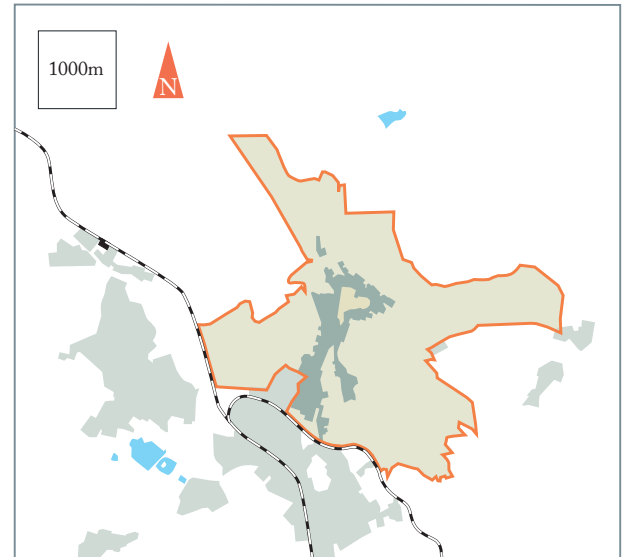


# 5. *Mariánské Lázně* (CZECH REPUBLIC)

## Introduction

*Mariánské Lázně* (formerly known as Marienbad) was designed and established in 1786 as “a spa in a park” and is one of the largest and most spacious spa complexes in Europe. Over 40 mineral springs rise here, with a further 160 acidic springs located in the surroundings. The spa quarter, founded in the period of Classicism at the beginning of the nineteenth century, spreads out in a steep picturesque valley with a central park, distinguished by Classicist and Empire houses, gloriottes, pavilions and colonnades. This is surrounded by an urban area and bordered by the surrounding, forested hills. From the beginning, the construction of the town was regulated as to the mass and the framework, and substantial neoclassical spa buildings mark this fashionable resort that flourished from the 1870s. Right up to the present day, spa treatments have been carried out in the original spa buildings with their preserved original interior and equipment. *Mariánské Lázně* also attracted influential patrons from across Europe including royalty and aristocracy, and European heads of state; it was a place of world politics, where important political negotiations took place.

It also attracted writers, composers, artists and celebrities, together with scientists from across the world. The administrative area of *Mariánské Lázně* is 51.78 km<sup>2</sup>, and the town has over 14,000 residents, of whom around 9,000 live in the nominated property.



- Boundary of the component spa town
- Urban fabric within the component spa town
- Urban fabric outside the proposed boundary of the component spa town



View north to the spacious "spa in a park", backed by forested hills

## Location and setting

*Mariánské Lázně* is located 170km west of Prague, in the West Bohemian Spa Triangle (32km SSW of *Karlovy Vary*, and 30km southeast of *Františkovy Lázně*). It has a sheltered position in a valley that is surrounded in the north, east and west by the Slavkovský les (Slavkovský Forest) and Tepelská vrchovina (Teplá Highlands) mountain range; practically all of the spa quarter lies within the Slavkovský les Protected Landscape Area. Construction development of the region is regulated in regards to the interests of the spa business and heritage protection, and the spa forests have no economic function, but rather serve a protective function for the natural curative resources.



View north along Main Street, with its parallel expansive landscape of Central Park, to the principal spa quarter nestled in a sheltered E-W valley

## Principal features described

The description of the component part has been sub-divided into the following:

- Historic urban landscape of the 'Great Spa'
- Springs
- Urban ensemble of the spa town
- Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape
- Spa infrastructure
- Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

## Historic urban landscape of the 'Great Spa'

The spatial plan of the nominated property can be divided into:

1. The compact spa-district set in its green expanse of parkland, gardens and open space, with its number of springs, large thermal baths, great colonnades and pavilions, structures for leisure and pleasure (including the grand casino assembly rooms), churches, guesthouses, and many elegant hotels (a number of them with baths) and villas.
2. The extensive therapeutic and recreational landscape surrounding the town, with its numerous walks, overlooks and towers.

## 5.1 Springs

In *Mariánské Lázně* there are 42 springs of acidulous water and more than 160 ferrous seltzers containing gaseous carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and mineral salts, having an average temperature of 7-10°C. They are used for bathing, drinking and medical treatment. Primarily six springs are used for drinking cures: Krížový (Cross), Rudolph's, Caroline's, Lesní (Forest), Ambrose's, and Ferdinand's.

Other springs include Alexandra's, Anthony's, Balbín's, Hamelika, Medvědí (Bear), Pirátův (Pirate's), and Prelate's Spring. A specific spring is Mary's Spring, containing 99.7 %  $\text{CO}_2$ . These numerous sources provide mineral water with a medically important geochemical diversity in four basic types: acidulous waters of  $\text{Na-SO}_4\text{HCO}_3\text{Cl}$  type (e.g. Lesní, Krížový, Ferdinand I a II, Alexandra); acidulous waters of  $\text{CaMg-HCO}_3\text{SO}_4\text{Cl}$  type (e.g. Ferdinand III, IV, VI, VII a VIII, Karolína); acidulous waters of  $\text{CaMg-HCO}_3$  type (e.g. Rudolf); simple ferrous acidulous waters (e.g. Ambrose's, Mary's, Ústřední (Central), Hamelika, Prelátův and Potta's valley lower springs).

The entire region is characterised by fault tectonics and volcanic activity of Tertiary origin, the consequence of which is the high concentration of gas emissions and the occurrence of thermal and mineral waters and seltzers. The spring structure is spatially connected to a wide range of metamorphic and igneous rocks in the periphery of the Slavkovský Forest Mountains, at its fault-predisposed boundary with the Planá rift structure and its most important fault system- the *Mariánské Lázně* deep fault, which is also associated with the springs of *Františkovy Lázně*, some 30km to the northwest. The rock fundament is predominantly granite and diorite bodies in the northern part of the outflow zone, gneisses in the southern part, and amphibolite in the eastern part. The precipitation waters from the wide catchment area of *Mariánské Lázně* infiltrate into the permeable fracture systems of the diverse crystalline rock environment to a level of about 150m. They meet a wide-ranging supply of chemicals and the ascent stream of the spring gas ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) in the deep fault zone, thus gaining their specific hydrochemical composition in four basic types. These waters outflow in a large number of artesian springs, the formation of which is determined not only by geological conditions but also by geomorphological conditions. In the vicinity, there are many more small springs and gas outflows in the form of mofettes.

The total yield of the springs is about 400 to 600 litres per minute. There are various types of healing procedures used in a number of balneotherapeutical facilities. The main treatment method in *Mariánské Lázně* is a drinking cure, treatments using mineral baths, oxygen baths, and peat wraps, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, and inhalations, oxygen therapy or physical therapy using methods of therapeutic exercise. The treatment is aimed at diseases of the urinary tract, metabolic disorders (obesity, gout) of the respiratory system, dermatological disorders, nervous disorders, oncologic diseases, gynaecological diseases, diseases of the endocrine glands, post-injury states and states after orthopaedic operations.

The first protective zone was established in 1866 by decree of the Czech governorship. Since 1959 the sources are protected by modern protection zones, after 2001 two-stage ones, with the second stage zone including the infiltration area on the large part of the Slavkovský and Tepelská plošina Mountains.



Dating to 31 December 1866, a protective zone was established around the curative springs. In 1955, the spa statute of *Mariánské Lázně* was approved, protecting the spa and the natural resources and regulating the conditions in the town for complex spa treatments. The current protection of the spa in *Mariánské Lázně* is ensured by the new Spa Act No. 164/2001 Coll.

## 5.2 Urban ensemble of the Spa Town

On the basis of the municipal building plan from 1815, the construction of the town on the ground-plan of a hexagram was commenced, and only later did the centre of the spa gain the form of a pentagram. The Classicist Biedermeier style was initially predominant in the town's appearance, enriched by Romantic details and an overall more complex conception. The visual axes leading between each spa building were also carefully thought out, and mutually connected the facilities.

The Renaissance Revival style can be seen to be predominant in *Mariánské Lázně* from the 1880s onward. At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the architect of the town and the director of the spa facilities was Josef Schaffer, who was inspired especially by the buildings found on the Riviera (Centrální lázně – Central Spa, the Kursaal, Nové lázně – New Spa, Palladio, school, deanery, municipal hospital, Municipal Hygiene and Balneological Institute). At the same time, the decorative Baroque Revival style, the so-called spa style similar to the buildings found in Monte Carlo, was also implemented; the Baroque Revival Historicism transformed into Naturalist Art Nouveau. The main author was Arnold Heymann from Vienna (the Krakonoš, Bohemia, Polonia, Kavkaz, Merkur, Pacific, Hvězda, Svatý Hubertus and Esplanade buildings). The constructor from *Mariánské Lázně*, Josef Forberich, added an exceptional romantic fairy tale element to his buildings (the Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, and St. Martin houses). On the eve of World War I, the spa quarter of the town was a compact urban and architectural whole.

### 5.2.1 Building ensembles connected to 'curative' waters

#### 5.2.1.1 Central Spa (Old Spa) (1892)

The Old Spa was built in 1892 in the Renaissance Revival style according to the plans of architect Josef Schaffer. The spa baths and cabins have been preserved in their original state with their Baroque-evoking portals and Art Nouveau ceramic tiles.



### 5.2.1.2 Moor Baths (1882)

Built according to the designs of Friedrich Zickler in 1880-82 in the French Renaissance Revival style. After being recently reconstructed into the Maria Spa Courtyard, the small historical pull with the natural Maria Gas is accessible in combination with oxygen therapy.



### 5.2.1.3 New Spa (1896)



Constructed according to the plans of Josef Schaffer in 1893-96 in the style of the Italian Neo-renaissance. There are two luxurious spa rooms for natural carbonic baths on the ground floor (so-called Fürstenbad – presently the Imperial and the Royal Cabins), always comprised of one salon for relaxation with a loggia facing the park, dressing rooms, and a private bath. The Roman Baths are in the centre of the steam baths, in the style of a classical, ancient Roman double atrium with two pools, ceiling murals, and Art Nouveau tiling.

### 5.2.1.4 Army Spa Treatment Facility (1885)

The Neo-Renaissance Imperial Spa House was built in 1885 by hotelier E. Lanzendörfer to the plans of architect Josef Schaffer. The present-day army spa treatment facility is comprised of a complex of connected buildings: the Bristol, the Aglaea, the Poet, the Credo, and the Davos.

## Buildings for the drinking treatment by the springs

### 5.2.1.5 Colonnade Temple of Cross Spring (1818-26)

This open, small peristyle colonnade temple was constructed in the years 1818-26, near Křížový (Cross) Spring, probably to the designs of Georg Fischer. It is comprised of two column halls, connected in the front by a transverse colonnade and gloriollette directly above the spring. The symbol of *Mariánské Lázně*.





### 5.2.1.6 Spa Colonnade with the Singing Fountain (1889/1986)

On the site of the Promenade Hall near Křížový Spring, a new colonnade made from cast iron and steel in the Baroque Revival style was built in 1888–1889 to the designs of Viennese architects Hans Miksch and Julian Niedzielski. This longest colonnade in a spa town (presently measuring 135 metres, originally measuring 180 metres along with the Old Colonnade) is a National Heritage Monument. A Singing Fountain was constructed in front of the colonnade in 1982–1986.



### 5.2.1.7 Pavilion of Caroline's Spring (1823/72)

On the site of the original pavilion dating to 1811, a new one was constructed in 1823, circular in form and classical, Corinthian in style. It was expanded in 1869 and 1872 by two colonnade wings.



### 5.2.1.8 Pavilion and Colonnade of the Forest Spring (1869)

This Classicist pavilion was constructed in 1869 to the plans of Friedrich Zickler. Originally, it was fully open, but in 1955–57, it was glazed.



### 5.2.1.9 Colonnade of Ferdinand's Spring (1827)

Built in 1827 to the plans of Josef Esch. A circular gloriette with a dome stands out, connected to the colonnade wings and ended in side pavilions. This is the oldest preserved and intact Classicist building above the springs in *Mariánské Lázně*.



### 5.2.1.10 Pavilion of Rudolph's Spring (1902)

This wooden pavilion in the form of Swiss architecture was built in 1902.





## 5.2.2 Buildings for leisure and pleasure

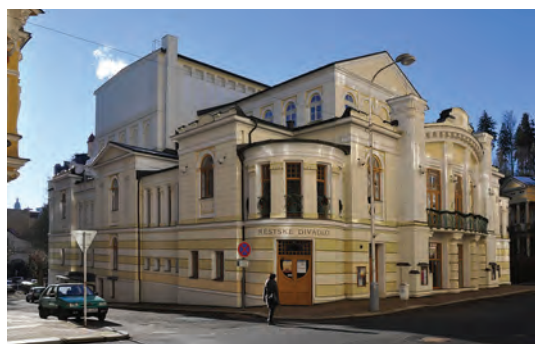
Bath facilities were associated with large halls meant for various social events, the so-called Kursaal, Kursalon or Konversationsaal at the Colonnade and in the New Spa. These halls were meeting places for people of all social classes. They included a cafeteria, a kitchen, a reading cabinet, and a theatre stage. Furthermore, there were music salons, snookers tables, and chess salons.

### 5.2.2.1 Kursaal – The Casino Assembly Rooms (1867/1900)

The Kursaal, falling under Nové lázně (New Spa), with its restaurant and column social hall, was constructed in 1867. In 1899–1900, Josef Schaffer constructed a transverse wing with a massive arched dome and lower side wings. In the interior, there was not only a central Marble Hall, but also a dance hall, a women's salon, a reading room, an office with a conversation hall, and a restaurant with a café.



### 5.2.2.2 Municipal Theatre (1868/1905)



The theatre was built in 1868 the Renaissance Revival style according to the designs of Friedrich Zickler. In 1905, the building was altered in the Art Nouveau style to the plans of Viennese architect Alfred Walcher von Montheim.

## 5.2.3 Accommodation

Guests were accommodated in spa houses, which not only met accommodation needs, but also provided board and social functions. From the eighteenth century, hotels began to be established, serving accommodation needs and meeting board and social needs. At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, large hotel complexes were founded, completing the appearance of *Mariánské Lázně*. Villas also served the accommodation needs of spa guests as guest-houses.

### 5.2.3.1 Golden Grape House (1818)

Built in 1818, this is the oldest preserved house in the Classicist style in town. The ground floor is brick and the first storey is timbered. In 1823, J. W. Goethe lived here. To this day, Goethe's rooms are preserved with the original furnishings from the time of the poet's stay here. Today, it houses the Municipal Museum.



### 5.2.3.2 Green Cross House - today Split (1819)

This building was built by Thaddeas Rubritius in 1819. Later, the owner of the house was the renowned local spa doctor, Fidelis Scheu. The two-storey building has the typical facade of the Classicist or Biedermeier styles.



### 5.2.3.3 The Kavkaz Spa House (originally Klebelsberg's Palace, Stadt Weimar, King of England) (1821)

The building was built in 1820-21 by Count Franz Josef Klebelsberg-Thumburg, where Johann Wolfgang Goethe liked to stay in the company of Madame Amélie Theodora von Levezow and her beautiful daughter, Ulrike. It was altered and expanded in 1903-05 to its present appearance according to the project of architect Arnold Heymann. However, major parts of the original Classicist Klebelsberg's Palace were preserved. In 1899 to 1909, British King Edward VII was accommodated here during his annual stays at the spa.



### 5.2.3.4 Star Spa House (Stern) (1819)



This spa house dates to 1819, constructed by knight Ferdinand Sternfeld of Kriegelstein, and was reconstructed in the Baroque Revival style in 1904-05 according to the designs of Arnold Heymann.

### 5.2.3.5 Palladio Spa House (1900)

This opulent building in the Renaissance Revival style was built in 1899-1900 by architect Josef Schaffer.



### 5.2.3.6 Grand Spa Hotel Marienbad (1873)



This hotel was constructed according to the project of architect Emil von Förster in 1873, designed as a Tuscan villa with distinct arcades. In 1952-90, the Balneological Research Institute was based here (today, it is the Hotel Falkensteiner).



### 5.2.3.7 Hotel and Spa House Pacifik (originally Ott) (1905)

This four-storey cornerstone house, dominant on the axis of Hlavní třída (Main Street), was constructed in 1905 according to the designs of Arnold Heymann.



### 5.2.3.8 Hotel Bohemia (originally Fürstenhof) (1905)



This hotel was constructed to the designs of Arnold Heymann in 1905 and served the needs of the most noble guests.

### 5.2.3.9 Hotel Esplanade (1911)

This dazzling and monumental hotel was built in 1910–11 in the forms of Geometric Art Nouveau to the designs of Arnold Heymann. In 1911, not long after opening, the famous American inventor Thomas Alva Edison was accommodated here. Various princes and bankers also lived here, for example in 1911, an Indian prince, and in 1913, an Indian maharajah and his family. The neighbouring, two-storey villas with towers, the Villa Royal (formerly the St. Hubertus) and the Villa Esplanade (formerly the Waldidylle and Campanilla) are also its residences.



### 5.2.3.10 Hotel Monty (1886/1901)

In 1885–86, the Café Egerländer tourist restaurant was built here, visited by King of Persia, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar on 16 September 1900. In 1900–01, it was converted into its present-day appearance, using decorative timbering.



### 5.2.3.11 Villa Patriot (1870)



This villa was constructed by August Herzig, the long-term mayor, in 1870, according to the designs of architect Friedrich Zickler in the Classicist style. In 1896, Dr. Eduard Kraus gains the building, and he established an institute with exercise machines for Swedish gymnastics according to Dr. Zander here.

Villa Patriot (Herzig), belongs among the most characteristic examples of Palladian buildings in the villa architecture of the West Bohemian spas. It features overhanging trusses, galleries and balconies.

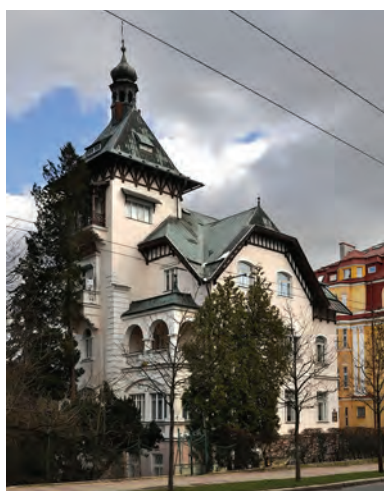
#### 5.2.3.12 Villa Lil (Luginsland) (1901)

This villa was originally known as *Fürstenhaus Luginsland*, and was constructed by Maximilian Halbmayr in 1899-1901 to the designs of architect Alexander Zickler. In 1904, Emperor Franz Joseph I spent the night here.



#### 5.2.3.13 Villa Turba (library) (1904)

This villa was constructed by the spa doctor and *Mariánské Lázně* mayor Dr. Hans Turba in 1903-04 to the designs of Ignaz König. The architectonic expression of the villa is in the style of late Historicism with half-timbered gables. On the ground floor, an examination room with a waiting area and own spa were located.



### 5.2.4 Religious buildings and facilities

Churches for various religions and confessions are testimony to the international environment of *Mariánské Lázně*.

#### 5.2.4.1 Roman Catholic Decanal Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (1848)

This Dean Church is one of the first sacred buildings constructed in the spirit of Romantic Historicism in Bohemia. This basilica is built on a polygonal ground-plan and was constructed in 1844-48 according to the project of architect Johann Gottfried Gutensohn from Munich in the Neo-Byzantine style.





#### 5.2.4.2 Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir (1902)

The Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir was built by the constructor from *Františkovy Lázně*, Gustav Wiedermann, in 1900-02 according to the designs of architect Prof. Nikolai V. Sultanov (1850-1908). The interior is dominated by an iconostasis, originally created in the town of Kuznetsovo near the city of Tver for the World Fair in Paris.



#### 5.2.4.3 Anglican Christ Church (1879)

The Anglican Christ Church was constructed in 1878-79 by architect Friedrich Zickler, according to the plans of the architect from London, William Burges. Of the original interior furnishings, the pulpit and the marble plaque dating to 1911, commemorating the frequent visits of British monarch, Edward VII, have been preserved.



#### 5.2.4.4 Evangelical Church (1857)

The Evangelical Church was built for Protestant spa guests in 1853-57 according to the project of Berlin architect and court building advisor, G. Ch. Cantian, financed by Prussian king Friedrich Wilhelm IV, who was also present at the ceremonial ordination on 24 June 1857.



#### 5.2.4.5 Municipal cemetery

The Municipal cemetery was founded in 1843 by the Premonstratensians of the Teplá Monastery. In the 1870s the cemetery was expanded. A number of large tombs and tombstones of important personalities of *Mariánské Lázně* can be found here including the tombstones of Václav Skalník, the designer and later mayor of *Mariánské Lázně* (1861), the famous spa doctor Karl Josef Heidler (1866), the spa physician and mayor of the city August Herzig (1901), the first pharmacist Karl Brem (1845), or physician and historian Adalbert Danzer (1862).



#### 5.2.4.6 Jewish cemetery

The Jewish cemetery located close to the road to Velká Hledebe was founded in 1875. By 1930 it was expanded and is still used today. In the cemetery, graves of the founder of the local Research Institute for Balneology, Professor Enoch Heinrich Kisch (1918), and the German philosopher and anti-fascist, Professor Theodor Lessing can be found.



## 5.3 Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape

Public greenery is one of the most important elements forming the entire composition of *Mariánské Lázně*. Thanks to this, the spa is within the park and the park is within the town. The public greenery with its number of promenades and many vistas fulfil the functions of a therapeutic and recreational spa landscape. Part of the therapeutic procedures in *Mariánské Lázně* is an outdoor exercise, conditioning and reconditioning. *Mariánské Lázně* swiftly took advantage of Oertel's terrain treatments for its predominant weight reduction treatments, and the result is an ingeniously sophisticated system of spa trails which are an inherent part of the spa.

### 5.3.1 Skalníkovy sady (centrální park) [Skalník's or Central Park]

The centre of *Mariánské Lázně* is comprised of an expansive, natural landscape park which was established by an experienced garden designer and later town's mayor, Wenzel Skalník. Skalník began to construct the park in 1817 in the wider part of the valley, which continued smoothly into the forested slopes and meadows. This required extensive amelioration work and the flattening of the terrain. The central area with a large promenade leading from Cross Spring to the New (Caroline's) Spring is bordered by a four-row alley of trees, ensuring that spa guests could stroll in a pleasant shade in the summer season. After Skalník returned from a study trip to England, the park was converted according the English fashionable natural landscaping trends in the early 1820s. On the elevated eastern part of the park (now the Goethe Square), guest-houses and spa houses were built. The Swan Lake in the western part of the park was adapted by the Swedish garden architect Swen Swensson at the beginning of the twentieth century. Towards the south, the Skalník's park passes into the park leading to the Ferdinand's Spring.



### 5.3.2 Hamelika Lookout Tower (1876)

Built by architect Friedrich Zickler in 1876 as a Gothic Revival tower imitating the ruins of old castles. The tower is 20m high and is adjoined by a part of a castle wall with an entrance gate.

### 5.3.3 Golf Course (1905)

The golf course in the natural landscape park with an area of 45 ha was ceremoniously opened by British monarch Edward VII in 1905. In 1923, its original area was almost doubled.

### 5.3.4 Mecserý's Vista (1850)

Located on a plateau above the cliff promontory by Hotel Royal on the site of an older, wooden pavilion. The construction was built in 1850 to honour a significant guest – the governor of Bohemia, Baron von Mecserý. The gazebo at the vista was renovated in 2000.





### 5.3.5 Karl's Cross

The dominant cross located above Nové lázně (New Spa) stands in the very spot where such significant spa guests as J. W. Goethe, K. G. Reitenberger or V. Skalník looked down into the valley. The cross was erected by abbot Karl G. Reitenberger, so that it would “shine as the perpetual light for the spa guests”.



### 5.3.6 Queen Karola's Vista (1875)

The vista pavilion located on the slope between Lesní (Forest) Spring and the Municipal Cemetery was named after a significant guest in the town, the Bavarian Queen Karola, and was constructed in 1875. It has now been reopened.

### 5.3.7 Friedrich's Rock – Friedrichstein

This natural rock formation in the so-called “Little Switzerland” is formed of large boulders of coarse-grained granite. A monumental plaque is placed on the formation, commemorating the visit of Saxon King Friedrich August II, who in 1834-35 spent time researching in *Mariánské Lázně*.

### 5.3.8 Goethe's Landing

This sandstone obelisk with two stone landings stands on the slopes of Hamelika, and commemorates the fact that J. W. Goethe used to sit with Ulrike von Levetzow on the benches here. The monument shaped as an obelisk was erected here in 1849.



### 5.3.9 The Landing of Abbot Clementso

This was the favourite spot of the abbot from Teplá, Alfred Clementso, under whose direction *Mariánské Lázně* experienced its biggest construction boom (1888-1900).

### 5.3.10. Cesta knížete Schwarzenberga (Path of Prince Schwarzenberg)

One of the oldest paths leads from the spa centre to the north. In 1909, Láška's Chapel was built here; further the path leads to the Gisela landing and then to Friedrich Wilhelm gazebo at the Friedrich Wilhelm Height (today's Žižkův Hill).



### 5.3.11 Goethova cesta (Goethe's Path)



Another significant walking path leads toward the north to a romantic hillside with a stone sea called “Little Switzerland” and a cluster of stones, Friedrichstein, where a memorial plaque of the Saxon ruler Friedrich August II was placed. Over the Friedrichstein a lookout

Hirtenuhe was built which was replaced by Forstwarte Café (now Kamzík) at the end of the nineteenth century.

### 5.3.12 Krakonošova cesta a Pohádková cesta (Krakonoš and Fairytale paths)

The Krakonoš hotel, built in 1901, was connected with the old spa by a path which was adapted as a “fairytale path” with scenes from favourite fairy tales.



### 5.3.13 Edwardova cesta (Edward’s Path)

This path starts at the New Spa and leads to the golf course which was ceremonially opened in 1905 by the English King Edward VII. On the way above the New Spa stands the Charles cross, reminiscent of the city’s founder Abbot Karl K. Reitenberger, further on there is a Goethe’s landing from where the path climbs up to the lookout tower Hamelika. Behind it lies a deer and fallow deer park, and the Boheminium park with models of Czech built heritage.



### 5.3.14 Metternichova cesta (Metternich’s Path)

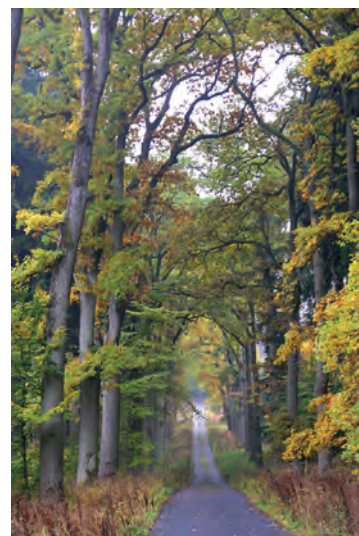
The path is directed to the outflow of the Bear spring and to the Balbín peat bog where the peat was extracted from the year 1853 for spa purposes. Then the path leads to the old cemetery with a ceremonial chapel and to a Karola lookout named in honour of the Saxon Queen.

### 5.3.15 Duncanova cesta (Duncan’s Path)

This way leads from the colonnade of the Forest spring along the valley of Úšovice creek to the Duncan’s viewpoint, and then to the Smradoch natural reserve with a forest peat bog and gas springs (mofettas).

### 5.3.16 Smetanova alej a Alej Svobody (Smetana’s Alley and Alley of Freedom)

These long, originally coach roads connecting *Mariánské Lázně* with the Metternich’s castle in Kynžvart were adapted in the early twentieth century to become spa promenades surrounded by alleys.



## 5.4 Spa infrastructure

The spa water was not only used for treatment purposes in the spa itself but also bottled and exported to far off places. *Mariánské Lázně* is also known for its salt production as well as the production of other products, such as hot-spring pastilles, cosmetics, soaps, spa wafers, etc.



#### 5.4.1 Excelsior Bottling Plant (the Saltworks)

The building of the present bottling plant was originally constructed in 1889 as a saltworks, where curative salt was gained by evaporating Ferdinand's Spring (formerly the Solný, or Salty Spring), later exported all over the world. It was produced until 1946. Afterwards, the building was converted into a bottling plant. Since 1950, the mineral water brands Excelsior and Aqua Maria are bottled here. Presently, the springs Nová Marie and Rudolph's Spring are used.



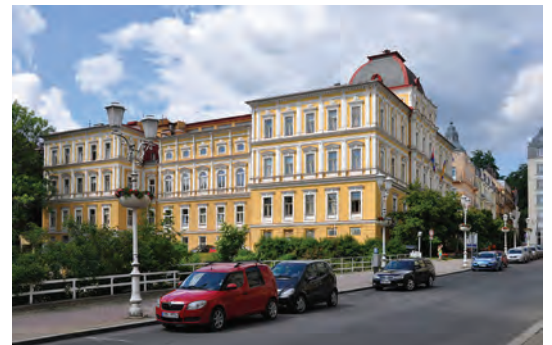
#### 5.4.2 The Kolonáda Spa Wafer Plant

The tourist café "Café Viktoria" dating to 1875, with the largest hall in the town, was reconstructed after World War II to produce spa wafers from *Mariánské Lázně*.



#### 5.4.3 Town Hall (1877/1900)

The Town Hall, the Municipal House, was built in 1877. The building housed (and still does to this day) the municipality, the savings bank, the post office, and the Orthodox prayer room. After 1900, it was expanded by a Renaissance Revival annex according to the projects of architect Josef Schaffer, complemented by a massive French mansard dome on the façade.



#### 5.4.4 Post Office (1880)



This building was originally constructed as the Rudolfshof Spa House, built in 1878-80 by the First General Association of Clerks of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in Vienna, according to the project of Viennese architect Ernst Krombholz. In 1913, it was converted into the Post Office.

#### 5.4.5 Spa Directorate (1878)

This building serving as the headquarters of the springs inspector and of the expedition of mineral waters was built in 1878 to the designs of architect Friedrich Zickler in the Renaissance Revival style. A public reading room was also located here. Today it is the directorate of the Léčebné lázně, a.s. spa company.



## 5.5 Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

The picturesque environment and the serenity of the location led to a high concentration of significant political and cultural guests who loved to return here, not only for the spa and for socialising, but also for inspiration. Johann Wolfgang Goethe visited *Mariánské Lázně* for the first time in 1820. He returned two more times and experienced his greatest love affair with young Baroness Ulrike von Levetzow here. The presence of Goethe in *Mariánské Lázně* had a positive effect on its popularity. For example, one of the most significant guests of the nineteenth century was Richard Wagner, who kept a diary on his stay and even dictated notes from *Mariánské Lázně* to his autobiography, later published as “*My Life*”. His operas *Das Liebesverbot* (The Ban on Love), *Tannhäuser*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (The Master-Singers of Nuremberg), and *Lohengrin* are related to the composer’s stays in *Mariánské Lázně*.

In 1821, the Spa Orchestra was established in *Mariánské Lázně*, making it one of the oldest symphony orchestras in the Czech Republic. Other significant guests included: Johann Strauss, Gustav Mahler, Friedrich Nietzsche, Franz Kafka, Joseph Rudyard Kipling, Mark Twain, Thomas Alva Edison, Pierre de Coubertin, Maxim Gorky, Stepan Petrovich Shipachyov, Marietta Sergeevna Shaginian, and others.

From its very beginnings, *Mariánské Lázně* became the settings for international political meetings. The stays of royal family members, of statesmen and of politicians were associated with significant political negotiations or events, reflected directly in the appearance of the town (British King Edward VII visited nine times, Bulgarian Prince and Czar Ferdinand I more than forty times and, furthermore, Emperor Franz Joseph I, Russian Czar Nicholas II, Greek King Georg I, Chancellor Clemens Wenzel Lothar von Metternich, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar, French minister George Clemenceau, Lord Neville Chamberlain, and other notables). The fates of Europe, Africa and Asia were often decided in *Mariánské Lázně*. In September 1899, the events preceding the Second Boer War in South Africa were decided upon in *Mariánské Lázně*. In 1903, King Edward met here with Greek King Georg I. On 19 August 1905, the King was visited by Prince Mirko Dmitri Petrovic-Njegoš from Montenegro, and at the end of August, Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria visited the king at the spa, who visited again in August of the following year (1906). Another notable who visited the King at *Mariánské Lázně*, was the Chairman of the House of Lords, Alfred August Prince Windischgrätz. In 1907, the British monarch met with the French minister, George Clemenceau, and with the Russian Foreign Minister, Alexander Petrovich Izvolsky, to discuss entering the Balkans due to unrest in the Ottoman Empire and the crisis in Morocco. Even Grand Duke Michael visited King Edward, arriving from *Karlovy Vary*. On 5 September 1907, Russian Foreign Minister Alexander Petrovich Izvolsky again visited King Edward in *Mariánské Lázně* to delineate the Anglo-Russian Convention, determining the spheres of political and economic power in Persia and Afghanistan. During his next visit to *Mariánské Lázně* in 1909, King Edward VII met with George Clemenceau and Alexander Petrovich Izvolsky to discuss Turkish-Grecian issues and the issues of the Dardanel, Bosphor, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Spa operations were a priority, and were always carefully monitored and protected. The international renown of *Mariánské Lázně’s* natural mineral resources is substantially due to recommendations by a range of world-renowned spa doctors, including Johann



Josef Nehr, Gottlob Carl Springsfeld, Karl Josef Heidler, Fidelis Scheu, Adalbert Eduard Danzer, Josef Adam Frankl, Leopold Herzig, Josef Abel, Franz Johan Opitz, Anton Friedrich Schneider, Samuel Benedikt Lucca, and Emil Kratzmann. Aside from spa doctors, world renowned doctors also came to the spa, and included Franz Ambrosius Reuss, Friedrich August Struve, Jöns Jakob Berzelius, Enoch Heinrich Kisch, Adolf Ott, and Isidor Kopernicki.

There are a number of buildings and places in *Mariánské Lázně* which tangibly demonstrate the significance of the spa town as a place of stay and work of prominent rulers, politicians and artists: in the Kursaal (5.2.2.1), the third World Jewish Congress took place in 1937.

The Golden Grape House (5.2.3.1) commemorates the stay of Johann Wolfgang Goethe in 1823. To this day, Goethe's rooms are preserved with the original furnishings from the time of the poet's stay here. Today, it houses the Municipal Museum. The Klebelsberg's Palace (now the Kavkaz Spa House, 5.2.3.3) was a place where Goethe liked to stay in the company of Madame Amélie Theodora von Levetzow and her beautiful daughter, Ulrike. Between 1899 and 1909, British King Edward VII was accommodated here eight times during his stays at the spa. *"I have travelled through all India, Ceylon and all spa towns in Europe but nowhere in the world the poetry of a wonderful nature took me by heart like here in Marienbad,"* wrote King Edward about *Mariánské Lázně*.

In 1903, Greek king Georg I stayed in the Klebelsberg's Palace. In Hotel Casino (now Falkensteiner Hotel Grand MedSpa, 5.2.3.6), Johann Strauss was accommodated in 1890 and 1891, and Alfred Nobel in 1893 and 1894. Between 1952 and 1990, the Balneological Research Institute was based here. In the monumental Hotel Esplanade (5.2.3.9), the famous American inventor Thomas Alva Edison was accommodated in 1911. Various princes and bankers also stayed here, for example in 1911, an Indian prince, and in 1913, an Indian maharajah and his family. Hotel Monty (5.2.3.10) was visited by King of Persia, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar in 1900. Villa Lil (5.2.3.12) is a testimony to the stay of Emperor Franz Joseph I in 1904. In Villa Turba (5.2.3.13) Sigmund Freud, Austrian neurologist and the founder of psychoanalysis, stayed in 1913. The opening of the Evangelical Church (5.2.4.4) in 1857 was attended by Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. In 1924 the church was visited by Albert Schweitzer, an Alsatian theologian, organist, writer, humanitarian, philosopher, and physician, who performed an organ concert here. The Golf Course (5.3.3) was ceremoniously opened by British king Edward VII in 1905.

### 5.5.1 Guesthouse Jetelový lístek (formerly House Kleeblatt or Wagner)

The house which was built in 1830 by Ferdinand Schmiedt in the form of Late Classicism and Biedermeier. It is associated with the stay of the German composer Richard Wagner in 1845. At the beginning of the twentieth century the house was adapted in a Neo-baroque style.



### 5.5.2 Guesthouse U Bílé labutě (now Chopin)

The house was built in 1820 in a Biedermeier style. In 1836, the Polish composer Fryderyk Chopin and his secret love, Maria Wodzinsky, were accommodated here. The Fryderyk Chopin Memorial Museum has



been situated on the second floor since 1960, displaying artefacts and information about Chopin's life. The second part of the museum presents the Fryderyk Chopin Society, a member of the International Federation of Chopin Societies (listed by UNESCO), and highlights its publishing and exhibition activities.

### 5.5.3 Hotel Anglický dvůr (English Court) (1820-40)

The house was built in 1820 and expanded in 1840 when a long two-storey courtyard wing was constructed and the main building was adapted in Romanticism style. In 1891, the hotel was visited by Mark Twain, the American journalist and writer, In 1892 Twain published his experience from *Mariánské Lázně* which he called “*the Austrian health factory*” in *The Illustrated London News* in a series of articles entitled “*The Tramp Abroad Again*”. For him *Mariánské Lázně* was “*the most radiant and newest looking mall town in the whole continent, nobody could wish a nicer one*”.



### 5.5.4 Balmoral Bathhouse (1916)

The Balmoral Bathhouse and the neighbouring Osborne Bathhouse were built at the beginning of the twentieth century in a Late Historicism style. In 1916, from July 4-13, the worldwide-known German-speaking Bohemian Jewish novelist, Franz Kafka stayed here in order to meet his fiancée, Felice Bauer.



## 5.6 Continuing spa tradition

*Mariánské Lázně* continues to be one of the most significant representatives of European balneotherapy that until today combines effective treatment using natural mineral resources and physical exercise in the well-preserved spa therapeutic and recreational landscape with leisure activities. The spa cure takes place mostly in the original historic spa buildings and facilities.

In 2016, a total of 263,059 visitors spent at least one night in accommodation facilities of *Mariánské Lázně* (this figure includes only facilities with more than 5 rooms and 10 beds), of which 83,630, i.e. ca. 30%, were people coming from the Czech Republic and the rest were foreigners, mainly from Germany, Russia, Taiwan and China, Austria, Israel, and Slovakia. The sum of overnight stays was 1,356,661 which means that an average length of stay is 5.2 days. The tourist industry is a combination of spas, wellness, and tourism. Traditionally, the spa guests in *Mariánské Lázně* complete three weeks of treatments whereas wellness activities and tourist stays are shorter. There exist more than 82 accommodation facilities in the component part (spa hotels, other hotels, guest houses). The capacity of accommodation facilities is satisfactory and at the appropriate level. Eight large hotels in *Mariánské Lázně* are run by the private joint-stock company, Léčebné Lázně Mariánské Lázně, a member of the Danubius Hotels Group, which owns spa resorts in Hungary, Great Britain, Romania, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.



The spa guests and visitors have a wide choice of cultural events which takes place throughout the whole year. The main event of the spa season is the Blessing of the Springs (spa season-opening) which takes place at the beginning of May, traditionally it is the second weekend in May, and includes a rich cultural program. The main part of celebrations is a Holy mass and a ceremonial act - the blessing of the springs.

Other events include the International Fryderyk Chopin Festival, the biggest and the most important Chopin's festival in Europe which is visited by tens of thousands of visitors (the Fryderyk Chopin Society is the only Czech music society listed by UNESCO), Goethe's Autumn, St. Wenceslas Meeting of People of Good Will), Maria's Spiritual Music Festival, *Mariánské Lázně* Cultural Summer, Festival of understanding or Jazz days.



Roman baths in  
the New Spa.  
*Mariánské Lázně*