

Nomination of
The GREAT
SPAS of Europe



for inclusion on the
World Heritage
List

Volume I: *Karlovy Vary*, Czech Republic



4. *Karlovy Vary* (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Introduction

Karlovy Vary is the second largest component part in the series, after the *City of Bath*. It was founded by Czech King and Roman Emperor Charles IV, probably by 1358, and named Karlsbad (Karl's Bath) after him. It is the principal spa town in the famous West Bohemian Spa Triangle, with over eighty springs that issue in the narrow and deeply incised Teplá River valley, enclosed by steep slopes of noble villas and overlooked by expansive woodland of the spa's therapeutic and recreational landscape. Its central boulevard stretches for around 2km - from the majestic Grandhotel Pupp at the southern end, to Elisabeth's Spa at the northern end. Rebuilt after fires, including in 1759, its extended spa zone, clearly separated from its administration and business district, reveals prolific and diverse architectural examples of Historicism and Art Nouveau styles from the town's Golden Era in the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century - when spa guests tripled. It is the largest spa complex in Europe, and nowhere today is the 'drinking cure', the most important spa treatment procedure in *Karlovy Vary*, more evident than in the beautiful colonnades where the hottest springs of the region yield highly mineralised carbonated water that is freely sipped from traditionally shaped porcelain cups by thousands of visitors and spa guests.

The unique composition of mineral springs, innovative methods in balneology, and legendary entertainment and accommodation, places *Karlovy Vary* amongst the most famous spas in Europe. Patronised by royal families and European heads-of-state, high aristocracy and artists, 'The largest open-air salon of Europe' became a prototype of mutual tolerance and a model of a united Europe. The town has around 50,000 residents, of which around 20,000 live within 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

The 'Great Spa' of *Karlovy Vary*, surrounded by forested steep slopes of the Teplá River valley



Location and setting

Karlovy Vary is some 130km west of Prague and lies in a narrow and hidden valley enclosed by steep slopes created by the down-cutting of the Teplá River before its confluence with the Ohře River. Teplá means “Warm” - the river is heated by numerous thermal springs and does not freeze, even in the harshest of winters. The component part includes both the town’s very large spa district which spreads along the deep river valley, its steep terraced slopes of lavish villas, and the surrounding wooded hills (for over 3km broadly to the southwest and over 2km to the northeast) with their multitude of promenades, paths, and numerous lookout places that fulfil the function of a therapeutic and recreational spa landscape. The woods are preserved in their natural state as part of the spa town’s natural healing resources, and the development of the territory is regulated with particular consideration given to heritage protection.



The linear spa quarter is centred on 19 curative springs located along a 2km-stretch of the river

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 linear spa-district that is located along the sinuous Teplá River valley, with the great thermal baths, numerous drinking taps at multiple sources, colonnades, structures for leisure and pleasure, and many hotels (some of them with baths, and some that are extremely large and grand).
2. The steep lower valley sides and plateaus with churches, villas, hotels, historic streets, parklands and walks.
3. The forested steep upper valley sides and hill tops with extensive walks, panoramic overlooks, towers and restaurants.

4.1 Springs

The source of *Karlovy Vary's* thermal mineral water is one of the world's most famous thermo-mineral spring water systems. 89 springs (19 of which are proven natural curative sources) rise in the central spa area; some are also located in the Teplá riverbed itself. They rise from a transversal fault zone, the so-called Hoff or Hot spring line of a NNW-SSE orientation that leads from the Hochberger footbridge in Dvořák Park all the way to the Richmond Sanatorium. From the hydrogeological point of view, they are associated with the Rosiwal spring zone, a very specific tectonic zone with a length of around 2km and a width of 150m, with an inclination 70° to 80° to the SW. The outflows of thermal springs (as a mechanical mixture of hot water and gas in the ratio of 1: 2.7, the effect of supersaturation) are determined by the crossing of the Rosiwal zone with other tectonic faults in prevailing E-W and N-S directions. The chemistry and overall mineralisation of the water is unique, the origin of all springs is shared, and thus the same formula prevails: Na-HCO₃SO₄Cl. Special components are fluorine and H₂SiO₃. Most springs are characterised by low radioactivity, whilst some small springs have comparatively high values. The strongest spring named Vřídlo (Hot Spring) with a temperature of 73.4°C spurts hot water rich in carbon dioxide about 12-14 metres high which is a European phenomenon. Some colder springs, with temperatures under 40°C, are acidulous. Chemical composition of the spring gas is 93.1 to 99.6% CO₂, with N₂, O₂, Ar, H₂ and He, CH₄, C₂H₆ as trace amounts.

The infiltration area is several hundred square kilometres, and hydrostatic pressure of the newly infiltrated water is the main driving force of the thermal water outflow to the surface; although particularly strengthened by ascent of gaseous CO₂ in the final stages. The spring structure and its discharge area, with characteristic outflows of odourless thermal water and gaseous carbon dioxide, is part of the intra-platform rift structure called the Ohře (Eger) Fault. The directional tectonics of this rift, the most geologically active area of the Bohemian Massif, allows for the ascent of a gasified and heavily mineralised thermal water from deeper parts of the Earth's crust (the depth of the origin of thermal water is estimated to 2-3km). Near to the surface (although still several tens to hundreds of metres deep), due to the clay minerals that provide sealing, the Ohře Fault transmits its function to the transversal fault zone (Hot spring line). The spring structure is both genetically and spatially connected with the environment created by the granite rocks of the *Karlovy Vary* Pluton; which also impart the character of mineralisation and temperature. The source of CO₂ is the post-volcanic activity of the area (degassing of residual magma in connection with neotectonics). A quite specific member of the quarternary cover are travertines (carbonate spring sediments) whose occurrence and spatial distribution represent a significant feature in the discharge zone.

The total yield of thermal mineral water is about 2,000 litres per minute, which sustains all the spa treatment facilities and the famous fountain. Water is distributed in a sophisticated system of pipelines with the length of around 4km. Annual distribution exceeds 50,000m³ into thirty balneotherapeutical facilities. Thermal water for drinking cures is publicly accessible and provided free of charge in five colonnades and four spring pavilions. Fourteen springs, declared as natural healing sources, outlet in twenty spring vases that are used for drinking cures and for the supply of balneotherapeutical facilities.

The use of a wide range of balneological and physiotherapeutical treatments such as drinking cures, irrigations, inhalations, bathing, diet therapy and rehabilitation,

increasing the effect of drinking therapy, enabling simultaneous treatment of accompanying diseases increase in polymorbid patients, especially older age, and the implementation of commercial wellness. Spa treatment with spring gas (CO₂) is used frequently, gas baths favourably improving local blood circulation and peripheral vascular resistance (in hypertensive disease). Treatment is also administered for diseases of the oesophagus, stomach, duodenum, small intestine and colon (ulcerous colitis, Crohn's disease), hepatic and pancreatic diseases, glycolipid disorders (diabetes) and blood lipids, infectious diseases of the intestines and liver (including parasitic). The moor mud/peat from the deposit Čistá-Krásno is used in some balneotherapeutical facilities for bathing and packs.

There is a complex of protection zones that extend in all directions from the discharge centre of the spring structure.

4.2 Urban ensemble of the Spa Town

4.2.1 Building ensembles connected to 'curative' waters

Exploitation of mineral springs takes place in *Karlovy Vary* either directly at the source or in the surrounding spa buildings. It was only when knowledge about balneology evolved to a certain level that specialized individual healing procedures and cures were gradually developed. All the new indications and diverse healing treatments determined the structural and architectural appearance of spa facilities, thus leading to the creation of specialized spa buildings such as spa houses, large spa complexes (Kurhaus, New Spa, Imperial Spa, Elizabeth Spa), inhalatoria, warbling places, colonnades, pavilions, drinking halls, conversation halls. All these specialized structures create the genuine spa environment of the *Karlovy Vary* spa quarter. The perspective axes have always been taken into consideration when planning the use of the structures by enhancing their appearance with particularly massive profiles and choice of location. One of the most important composition principles was reflection of the buildings' mirror image in the water of the Teplá River.

4.2.1.1 Císařské lázně (Lázně I) [Imperial Spa] (1895)

Císařské Lázně was built in the style of French Neo-Renaissance between 1893 and 1895 according to the project of Ferdinand Fellner and Hermann Helmer of Vienna (see also The Municipal Theatre). It is a symbol of the Golden Era of *Karlovy Vary*, with a magnificent exterior matched by exceptional interior spaces, including the Imperial Bath for VIP guests and two painted murals by W. Schneider that depict the most famous spa guests from the Renaissance to 1914. This peat moss spa offered treatment that was medically unique, and included a mechanised peat preparation system in a partially detached Peat Pavilion.



4.2.1.2 Lázně III (Kurhaus) (1866)

This bathhouse building was built in 1863-1866 according to a project of Ludwig Renner, Gustav Hein and Eduard Labitzky in Neo-Gothic style with Neo-Romanesque motifs. Its strictly symmetrical disposition with two double-winged side



tracts between three buttresses conceals two inner courtyards. The Ceremonial Hall on the upper level is particularly noteworthy and restoration was undertaken in 2004. It ranks amongst the most important public spa structures in *Karlovy Vary*.

4.2.1.3 Vojenský lázeňský ústav (Military Spa Institute) (1855)

Vojenský lázeňský ústav was built between 1853 and 1855 after a project of Wenzel Hagenauer in Classicist style. It is one of the largest military spas in Europe. Sadový Spring, which is accessible from Dvořákovy sady park, emerges in the basement of the building.



4.2.1.4 Alžbětiny lázně (Lázně V) (Elisabeth's Spa) (1906)

Named after Empress Elisabeth, this spa building was built in the Neo-Classical style in 1905–06 after a project of Franz Drobny. In front of the building is a spectacular parterre in a French formal style.



4.2.1.5 Pavilon Svobody (Liberty Spring Pavilion) (1897)



The Liberty Spring Pavilion was erected in 1897. The appearance of this wooden pavilion with a polygonal floor plan is taken from Swiss architecture and became a model for other romantic pavilions in *Karlovy Vary*.

4.2.1.6 Mlýnská (Mill) Colonnade (1869-81)

The Neo-classical Mill Colonnade was built in 1869–81 after a project of a Prague architect, Josef Zíték. At 132m long, the majestic portico consists of 124 Corinth columns and forms one of the most elegant colonnades amongst European spas. The ground floor portico has the form of an Antique stoy over a total of five springs (Mlýnský, Skalní, Libušín, Knížete Václava, and Rusalčín). The rim of the balustrade displays 12 statues, one for each month.



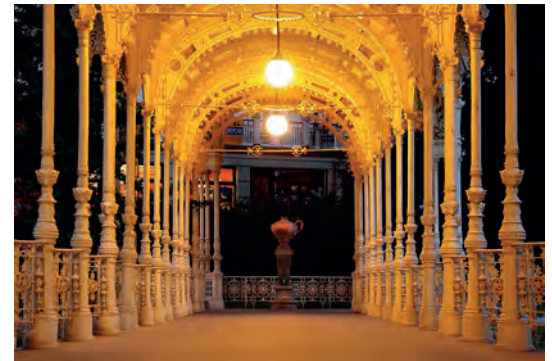
4.2.1.7 Tržní (Market) Colonnade (1883)

On the site of the old Karlsbad city hall, this colonnade was built in 1883 after a project by the studio of Fellner & Helmer over the Charles IV Spring. In 1904, it was extended on the right side to form a roof over Tržní Spring. The colonnade's wooden lacing is one of the symbols of *Karlovy Vary*.



4.2.1.8 Sadová (Park) Colonnade (1884)

A roofed gallery connects the point of outflux of Sadový Spring in the basement the Military Spa Institute and the concert hall in the Municipal Park. Built in 1884, after a project by the studio of Fellner & Helmer, the colonnade forms a 50m-long veranda covered with a decorative cast-iron roofing in Neo-Renaissance style, supported by slender Corinth columns, and cornered by hexagonal pavilions. It is characteristic example of the cast-iron structures erected during the second half of the 1800s.



4.2.1.9 Zámecká Colonnade (Castle Colonnade) (1912)



The Zámecký Spring Colonnade was built in 1910–12 after the design of architect Friedrich Ohmann of Vienna in the style of Neo-Classicism. The colonnade contains a large exhibition and promenade hall, a circular Sluneční Dvůr (Sunny Courtyard) surrounded with arcades and statues, as well as a drinking hall with a circular pavilion over the Horní Zámecký Spring (Upper Castle Spring). In 2000–01, the colonnade was converted into Zámecké Lázně (the Castle Spa).

4.2.1.10 Vřídlo (Hot Spring)

The most important Karlsbad spring, Vřídlo (Sprudel) emerges next to the Vřídelní Colonnade built between 1967 and 1975 according to the project of Jaroslav Otruba. Below the Vřídelní Colonnade is the so-called Old Basement which dates back to the time of the former cast-iron colonnade designed by the Viennese architects Fellner & Helmer in 1878–79.



4.2.2 Buildings for leisure and pleasure

Balneological operations were traditionally associated with large halls that served various social purposes, where people of all social classes would meet. The halls were complemented with dining rooms, kitchens, reading rooms, theatre stages, music parlours, billiards and chessboard rooms. One of the oldest social halls is the Assembly Room on the upper floor of Lázně III (Kurhaus) from 1863–66.

4.2.2.1 The Municipal Theatre (1886)

The municipal theatre faces Theatre Square and overlooks the river, and was built on the site of the former Classicist theatre in 1884–86. This project of Ferdinand Fellner & Hermann Helmer is in the Neo-Baroque and Rococo styles and is in identical style and elegance with the Imperial Spa and Grandhotel Pupp. The design of the lobby and the stairway was used in several other theatre structures all over Europe. Its murals and masterpiece of a hand-painted curtain are by renowned Viennese artists Gustav and Ernest Klimt and Franz Matsch.



4.2.2.2 The Art Gallery (1912)

In 1911–12, the Kunsthalle (Art Gallery) designed by Rudolf Mimler was erected on the site of older shops. After WWII, an art gallery was opened here, which specialises in modern arts today.



4.2.2.3 Slavnostní sál at Grandhotel Pupp (Festivity Hall) (1906)



The large concert hall was built in 1905–06 in Neo-Baroque and Rococo styles, presumably after a project of Alfred Bayer from the Fellner & Helmer Studio. The hall has a generously decorated interior with galleries, a majestic stairway and a stage that ranks amongst the most prominent concert and social halls in European spa towns.

4.2.2.4 Poštovní sál (Postal Hall) (1792)

The garden restaurant at Poštovní dvůr with a large hall was built by the Karlsbad postmaster, Josef Anton Korb, in 1791–92. On the upper level is the Labitzky Hall decorated with romantic Gothicized murals by Josef Kramolín. In 1894, the continental premiere of Dvorák's *New World Symphony* was played here.



4.2.2.5 Hotel Ambassador – Národní dům (1900)

In 1899–1900, the Karlsbad Sharpshooter's Federation had its clubhouse with a hotel, restaurant, variété, and museum built in the newly developed part of the town. The project was created by the Fellner & Helmer Studio in the Neo-Gothic style with Neo-Renaissance and Art-Nouveau elements. Particularly spectacular is the large hall, named Variété, with an impressive steel-frame glass ceiling.



4.2.3 Accommodation

Initially, spa guests were accommodated in individual bathhouses. From the eighteenth century onwards, many hotels were built, also as gastronomic and social places. At the break of the nineteenth and twentieth century, large hotel complexes appeared complementing the image of *Karlovy Vary*. Many villas were used for guest accommodation as well.

4.2.3.1 Peter Bathhouse (The Golden Ox) (1709)

This house was built in 1706-09 as a coaching inn. The original half-timbered interiors in the Baroque style have been preserved to this day. Thanks to the original wood-frame architecture, the house is the best example of a Baroque house in *Karlovy Vary*.



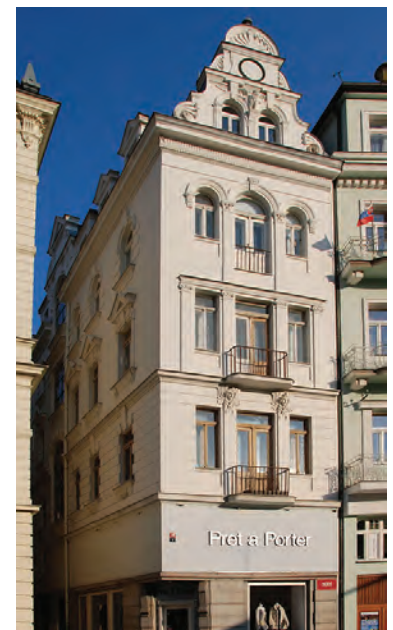
4.2.3.2 Bathhouse The Maltese Cross (1706)



The house was built in 1706 by a merchant Peter Anton Cerone of the Milan Duchy. It is the oldest house in *Karlovy Vary*, whose original half-timbered façade, interior partitions, and Classicist murals upstairs have been completely preserved. In 1782, the printing shop was opened here which used to issue lists of spa guests called *Kurlists*.

4.2.3.3 The Mattoni Trinkhalle (1900)

On the site of a former Baroque house, a wealthy mineral water merchant Heinrich Mattoni set up his new distribution outlet in 1899-1900. The project was drafted by architect Karl Hayböck of Vienna in the style of late Historicism with Art Nouveau motifs.



4.2.3.4 Zawojski Bathhouse (1901)

The house was built in 1899-1901 by the imperial Court's supplier, Felix Zawojski, a tailor well known in the world's best fashion salons. The project was drafted by architect Karl Hayböck in the style of Parisian Art Nouveau.



4.2.3.5 House of Three Moors (1910)

On the site of the house of Three Moors from 1760, owing its fame to nine visits of Johann Wolfgang Goethe over the period from 1806 to 1820, senior building councillor Franz Stüdl of Vienna had a new house built in the years of 1909-10. Next to the entrance door is a plaque proclaiming where Goethe used to pass through.



4.2.3.6 Bathhouse and Café Elephant (1914)



In 1875-76, at the site of a former Baroque house, a new house was built and subsequently modified in 1913-14. The sculpture of a golden elephant on its façade has become one of the symbols of *Karlovy Vary*.

4.2.3.7 Grandhotel Pupp (1893)

In the 1870s, a hotel complex named Etablissement Pupp was erected on the site of the former Saxony Hall and Bohemian Hall.

In 1892-93, Grandhotel Pupp was built in an exalted French Neo-Renaissance style after a project of two Viennese architects, Rudolf Přihoda and Josef Němeček; in 1905-06, the Festivity Hall was added. The complex of the Grandhotel's individual buildings was united into a Neo-Baroque palace in 1907 and 1936. Grandhotel Pupp has become the most famous of Karlsbad's hotels, and the splendour of its original interior has been preserved to this day.



4.2.3.8 The Imperial Hotel and Sanatorium (1912)

The Imperial Grandhotel was built in 1910-12 after a design of the French architect Ernst Hébrard and project of Juan Kronfuss of Buenos Aires. The designers created an honorary courtyard with a garden parterre in front of the Grandhotel's front door, which connects to a naturally landscaped park with arcades, a rosarium (rose garden) and so-called Viennese stool. The Grandhotel is also accessible via funicular tunnel. The Imperial Hotel's monumental façade dominates the view of the town from the Vřídlo Spring in the valley, as well as from other perspectives.



4.2.3.9 The Bristol Palace Hotel and Sanatorium (1891)

The Bristol Hotel was built in 1890-91 after a project by Hans Schidlo, as a variation of Renaissance and Baroque styles. The solitary and monumental construction is elevated on a plateau and represents a conspicuous landmark viewed from the municipal park.



4.2.3.10 Villa Lützow (1854)

In 1853–54, count August von Lützow had a villa built in the Windsor Neo-Gothic style in a romantic location above the town. The surrounding terrain was landscaped as a romantic garden with terraces and numerous metal sculptures.



4.2.3.11 Villa Artemis (Villa Stainl) (1875)

Villa Artemis was built in 1875 after a project of the builder Konrad Eckel, it is one of the purest examples of Neo-Palladianism in *Karlovy Vary*.



4.2.3.12 Villa Chopin (Villa Schäffler) (1895)

In 1895, the mayor of the town, Ludwig Schäffler had his villa built in the West-end district after a project from the Fellner & Helmer Studio. The villa's architecture reveals inspiration from late Gothic with half-timbered parts of Anglo-Saxon type.



4.2.3.13 Villa Becher (1914)

The villa was built for Gustav Becher in 1913–14 after a project of architect Karl Heller, in the form of an English home. Between 2006 and 2011, the Becher Villa was restored and modified as an interactive gallery.



4.2.3.14 The Trocnov Sanatorium (1898)

The former Evangelical hospice, known today as Trocnov Sanatorium, was built in 1898 after a project by Julius Zeissig of Leipzig, in the form of medieval castles or fortresses.



4.2.4 Religious buildings and facilities

In addition to social and conversation halls, there is also a number of sacral structures which used to serve the spiritual needs of the international clientele.

4.2.4.1 Decanal Church of St. Mary Magdalene (1736)

On the place of the Gothic church of Saint Mary Magdalene, located on a small hill above the Hot Spring from the second half of the fourteenth century, a new decanal church was built in high Baroque style between 1733 and 1736 after a project of the renowned Prague architect Kilián Ignác Dientzenhofer. In the interior, a richly decorated Baroque altar from the eighteenth century has been preserved.



4.2.4.2 St. Andrew's Church (1500/1841)



The former Late-Gothic St. Andrew's Church was built around 1500, it was re-built in the Classicist style in 1840–41. Behind the church there is a cemetery designated for foreigners who died while staying in *Karlovy Vary* (e.g. 1800, Prussian architect Friedrich Gilly; 1844, Franz Xaver Mozart, son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart).

4.2.4.3 Evangelical Church of St. Peter and Paul

The Evangelical church was built in 1854–56 by Gustav Heine, expanded in 1864–65 and subsequently altered to its current appearance in 1893–94 under the supervision of architect Julius Zeissig of Leipzig.



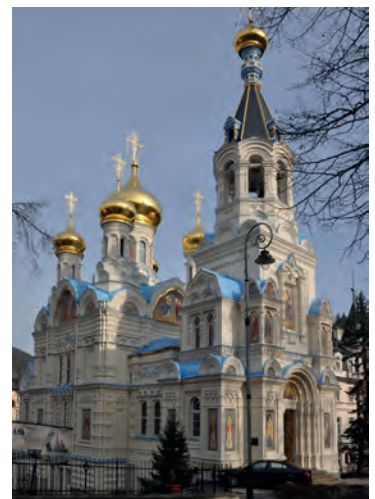
4.2.4.4 The Anglican Church of St. Lucas (1877)



This English church was built in 1877 in the northern Neo-Gothic style after a project of the Saxony building councilman Oscar Mothes.

4.2.4.5 Orthodox Church with a Parish (1897)

The Orthodox temple was built after a project of Gustav Wiedermann of *Františkovy Lázně* in 1893–97. Both the exterior and interior have the appearance of a typical Byzantine Russian sacral structure.



4.2.4.6 Catholic, Protestant and Jewish cemeteries

Between 1864 and 1869, Catholic (Central), Protestant and Jewish cemeteries were founded in Drahovice in the eastern part of *Karlovy Vary*. Many prominent personalities have been buried here such as Jan Becher, Heinrich von Mattoni, Julius Pupp, Ludwig Löwi Moser and other. A precious set of tombstones in Neo-gothic, Neo-renaissance, Art Nouveau and Cubism styles has been preserved in the cemeteries. In the Jewish cemetery a ceremonial hall is located built in the Moorish style in 1892, for the Catholic cemetery a majestic funeral hall in a style of Italian Renaissance was constructed in 1900.

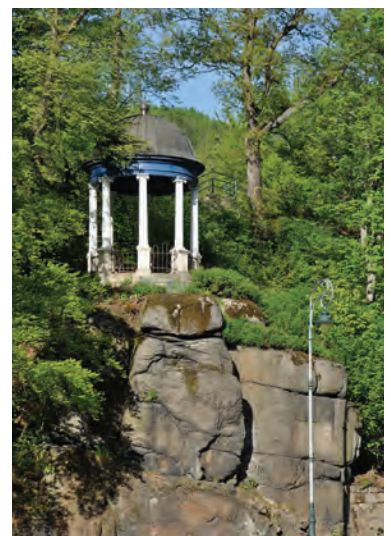


4.3 Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape

Patients' traffic to and from the springs, in accordance with prescribed drinking treatment, account for the number of promenades protected by tree alleys, arcades or roofed galleries. Integration with the natural countryside is key here, too. By the end of the nineteenth century, the total size of the woodlands had increased to 1,197 hectares and the whole network of paths in parks and countryside exceeded 100 km even before 1914. Today, the wooded area equals a total of 2,281 hectares. Various lookout points offer a view of the spa town and opportunities to relax in pavilions and lookout towers. For easier access of the paths and promenades in higher elevations, several funiculars date to around 1900.

4.3.1 Gloriette of Dorothea von Biron (1791)

The Empire gloriette on a rock cliff over the Teplá River was built in 1791 at the initiative of Count Christian Clam-Gallas for the beautiful Duchess Dorothea von Biron, Princess of Courland. It is the oldest circular pavilion (monopteros) in *Karlovy Vary*.



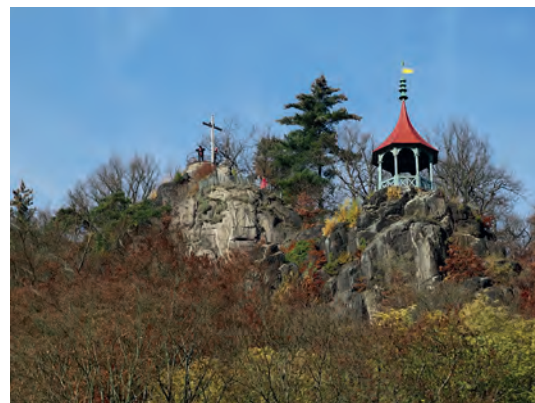
4.3.2 Pavilion of Lord Findlater (1801)

The Empire lookout pavilion was built in 1801 thanks to a financial subsidy of a Scottish Lord, James Findlater. It is an example of an Antique-inspired mini-temple in *Karlovy Vary*.



4.3.3 Maier Gloriette (1804)

This lookout gloriette on the Jelení skok cliff above the town, built in 1804, was financially subsidised by Viennese merchant, Franz Maier. Nearby stands the statue of Mountain goat, the symbol of *Karlovy Vary*.



4.3.4 Vyhlídka Karla IV (Charles IV Lookout) (1877)



In 1877, the oldest lookout tower in the Neo-Gothic style was built at the Franz Joseph Heights (now Charles IV Lookout) and named after the Emperor Franz Joseph I.

4.3.5 Goethova vyhlídka (Goethe Lookout) (1889)

In 1888–89, a lookout tower was built at the top of Výšina věčného života (Eternal Life Height) after a project from the Fellner & Helmer Studio, in the style of northern brick Neo-Gothic.



4.3.6 Diana Lookout (1914)

Following the construction of a cable car railway to Výšina přátelství [Friendship Heights], an outing restaurant and a lookout tower Diana were built on one of the hills in 1912–14. The lookout tower has since become one of the town's symbols.



4.3.7 Garden restaurant Small Versailles (1780/1880s)

The Small Versailles Inn was built around 1780. In 1820, the place was visited by J. W. Goethe. The restaurant gained its current appearance in the 1880s, when the garden was complemented with a cast-iron Glass Pavilion.



4.3.8 St. Linhart's Church

The ruins of a formerly fortified late Romanesque church of St. Linhart, surrounded by a cemetery, testify to the bygone existence of a medieval Obora (Thiergarten) village from the mid-1300s, whose inhabitants had settled in the newly founded *Karlovy Vary*. In the nineteenth century, the locality was set up as a point of interest for spa guests.



4.3.9 Dvořákovy sady (Dvořák's Park) (1820s/78)

Towards the end of the 1820s, the supreme margrave Rudolf Chotek ordered that the slope around the Theresa Spring be converted into an English-type municipal park. The job was assigned to an artistic landscape architect of *Mariánské Lázně*, Wenzel Skalník. Today, the municipal park bears the name of the composer, Antonín Dvořák, after an alteration in 1878 after a design of Josef Hahmann. The grass-covered areas are adorned by groups of decorative trees and bushes, and complemented by a pond with a fountain. A music pavilion was built here for summer concerts, as well as a winter garden, restaurant, and promenade gallery (Sadová Colonnade).



4.3.10 Goethova stezka (Goethe's trail, Poplar Alley)



The most famous promenade along the Teplá river leads from the Grandhotel Pupp to the Postal Hall. Located here is a bust of the poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe from the year 1883 by sculptor Adolf von Donndorf from Stuttgart. On the rocky outcrops, a number of plates of thanks can be found donated as a reward by the spa guests. Above the Art gallery, on the rock called Parnas, a plate with poems from the French nobleman du Faye was placed in 1798.

4.3.11 Chotkova pešina (Chotek's Footpath)

The oldest forest promenade was built from the initiative of Rudolf Chotek, president of the Austrian financial chamber, in 1756. It leads from the Our Lady of Sorrows chapel behind the Grandhotel Pupp under the Mountain goat jump rock. In 1804 the obelisk of count Findlater was erected beside the path and in 1834 Theresa's obelisk, commemorating the visit of the Duchess Marie Therese Charlotte d'Angoulême in 1833. The reef under the Peter's heights was fitted in 1835 with a commemorative plaque of the Russian Czar Peter the Great complemented by the Czar's bust in 1877.



4.3.12 Labitzkého a Findlaterova stezka (Labitzky and Findlater paths)

The Labitzky forest promenade leads from the Postal Hall, where an obelisk of Prince Schwarzenberg was erected in 1818, to the Findlater's trail, one of the oldest forest walks which can be followed up to the Findlater's Pavilion (dating from 1801), and then up to the junction of forest roads at the chapel of Ecce Homo. A scenic gazebo Belvedere was built nearby in 1810 by count Jan Rudolf Chotek.

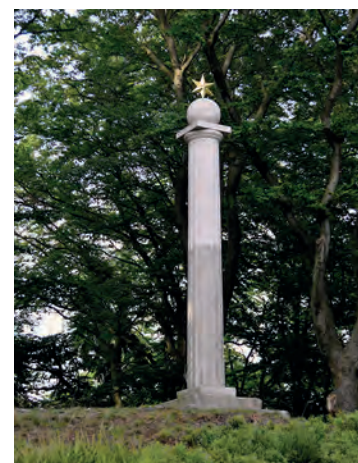


4.3.13 Odpolední cesta (Čtyřhodinová promenáda) (Afternoon path, Four-hour promenade)

In 1807, the so-called four-hour promenade was created where the spa company could walk in pleasant shade, which thanks to the configuration of the terrain could be comfortably started in the summer season at four o'clock in the afternoon.

4.3.14 Turgeněvova a Gogolova cesta (Turgenev and Gogol paths)

In 1820, Count Kolowrat initiated creating a new path on the Hill of Three Crosses. In 1852, a King Otto's column was erected at the nearby Otto's Height in honour of the visit of the Greek King Otto I.



4.3.15 Stará pražská silnice (Old Prague Road)



In the years 1804-11, a new access road from Prague was built at the southeastern outskirts of *Karlovy Vary* by the initiative of Count Rudolf Chotek. This became a place of romantic walks by various famous visitors of the spa town.

4.4 Spa infrastructure

The water from the springs was also used for exporting to remote destinations. The filling used to be done directly at the springs, mainly at *Vřídlo*. *Karlovy Vary* was also known for its production of salt, above all from *Vřídlo*.

4.4.1 Filling Plant and Distribution of Mineral Water

The filling plant was built at the confluence of the *Teplá River* and *Ohře River* in 1930-31 after a project of architect Adolf Meretich. In its time, it was one of the most state-of-the-art operations in Europe.



4.4.2 Old Basement of the Vřidelní Colonnade (Hot Spring Colonnade)

Below the Vřidelní Colonnade is the so-called Old Basement which dates back to the time of the former cast-iron colonnade designed by the Viennese architects Fellner & Helmer in 1878-79. Here mineral water was pumped, distributed, and its temperature regulated for balneological purposes. At the present, the Old Basement is open to the public and is one of the most visited expositions in *Karlovy Vary*.

4.5 Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

Karlovy Vary played, and still is playing, an important role as a therapeutic, cultural, social, and spiritual centre. The town was favoured by many rulers and gentry representatives, as well as wealthy businessmen.

Among the guests whose presence impacted on the town's appearance, we find members of the Austrian Imperial court including Prince Klemens Wenzel Lothar von Metternich, Austrian Chancellor, the court of the Prussian King Friedrich I, several Electors of the German states, Otto von Bismarck, the first Chancellor of the German Empire, the Russian Czar Peter the Great, and members of the most prominent European aristocratic families, as well as representatives of political and artistic society. *Karlovy Vary* was a popular place for numerous congresses and scientific conferences and major theatre performances. It was like a chessboard of Europe.

Karlovy Vary was the place of inspiration for the works of well-known writers, music composers, and painters, who frequently referred to their visits in the spa, for example Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz, Francois-René de Chateaubriand, Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Friedrich Schiller, Richard Strauss, Franz Kafka, Leoš Janáček, Theodor Körner, Adam Mickiewicz, Fryderyk Chopin, Johann Brahms, Carl Maria von Weber, and Niccolò Paganini.

The legacy of *Karlovy Vary* for European culture and civilization lies especially in the development of balneology and balneotechnology. A particularly memorable - and centuries' old - legacy is the spa cup with a drinking spout, specially designed to cool the hot spring water before drinking. Thousands of people, both residents and visitors, may be seen with such cups daily at the free public springs.

In *Karlovy Vary* a large number of buildings and places have been preserved which are tangibly associated with stays of prominent guests. These include the following examples: during his stay in *Karlovy Vary* in 1904, Emperor Franz Josef I visited, among others, the Imperial Spa (4.2.1.1), the Mill and Market Colonnades (4.2.1.6; 4.2.1.7) and the Grandhotel Pupp (4.2.3.7); in 1885, the Municipal Theatre (4.2.2.1) saw the visit Gustav Klimt, the Austrian painter who also created, together with Franz Matsch, the theatre's hand-painted curtain and mural paintings; in 1894, the continental premiere of Dvořák's *New World Symphony* was played at Postal Hall (4.2.2.4). This place also attests to visits by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 1818, Prussian Field Marshal Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher in 1819, and Niccolò Paganini in 1828; Hotel



Traditional spa thermal-water drinking cups



Ambassador where Národní dům (4.2.2.5) hosted two World Zionist congresses in 1921 and 1923; the House of Three Moors (4.2.3.5) attests to nine of altogether 13 visits to *Karlovy Vary* by Johann Wolfgang Goethe, German poet, playwright, novelist, scientist and statesman, over the period from 1806 to 1820. In total, Goethe has spent almost three years of his life in *Karlovy Vary* which – as he used to say – was the only place in the world where he was willing to live apart from Weimar and Rome. In *Karlovy Vary* he also stayed in Bílý zajíc (White rabbit), Mozart and Madrid guest houses.

In 1892, the International Conference of Spa Doctors took place in the Grandhotel Pupp (4.2.3.7). The Hotel's café salon hosted an assembly of German natural scientists in 1862. Twenty tombstones erected at the former cemetery in the Mozart's park near the St Andrew's church (4.2.4.2) commemorate prominent inhabitants and visitors of *Karlovy Vary* in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, such as David Becher, "the Hippocrates of *Karlovy Vary*" and one of the founders of modern balneology (1725-92), Jean de Carro, the town's physician and balneologist (1770-1857), Count Joseph von Bolz, patron of *Karlovy Vary* (1764-1834), and Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart, composer and son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1791-1844). At Otto's Height (4.3.14), the granite memorial column which is located close to the outlook was erected in 1852 during the visit to this place by the first Greek king, Otto I.

4.5.1 House Walter Scott

The modest two-storey house built in the style of romantic Historicism at the beginning of the nineteenth century is noteworthy as the home and office of a prominent balneologist, Dr. Jean de Carro, a native of Geneva who died here in March 1857.

4.5.2 Hotel Savoy Westend

In 1896-97, a new large hotel was built after the project of the architect, Alfred Bayer. Its architectural composition is based on the use of massive towers, smaller defence turrets and gabled buttresses in the style of Gothic-Renaissance aristocratic estates in France. In 1902, the Persian King Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar was accommodated here. Between 1923 and 1933 the hotel was a favourite place to stay for the Czech President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk who used this place for important meetings with the Czech Government.



4.5.3 Hotel Bristol Villa Tereza

In 1890, Theresia Fasolt, the owner of the Royal Villa, commissioned the construction of the villa (which was named after her) to the building company Příhoda & Němeček of Vienna, after the design of the architect Josef Němeček. The building was designed in the style of late Historicism and conceived as an Italianised villa. Empress Elisabeth of Austria and Duchess of Bavaria, known as Sisi, is known to have stayed here in 1892.



4.6 Continuing spa tradition

The importance of *Karlovy Vary*, as the largest and most famous spa town in the Czech Republic, lies in the long-term continuity of balneological operations. *Karlovy Vary*, continues to develop its rich balneotherapeutic experience and spa infrastructure, introduces new healing products and extends the spectrum of treated diagnosis. Organisations dedicated to the research and educational activities include the Reference Laboratories for Natural Healing Resources (funded organisation of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic) which analyse the mineral water, gases and peat and examine their influence on the human organism, and the Institute of Balneology *Karlovy Vary*, which continues in the tradition of the Research Institute of Balneology founded in 1903 in *Mariánské Lázně* and organises regular seminars in balneomedicine for spa doctors and non-medical staff. For the administration, usage, protection, maintenance and measuring of the mineral springs the town of *Karlovy Vary*, has established the Management of Natural Healing Resources and Colonnades which builds on the tradition of the former Spring Office.

A large majority of historic spa buildings (bathhouses, pump rooms, colonnades) are still being used for different balneological treatments. As in the past, the parks and promenades are carefully maintained to serve the treatment of the spa guests. *Karlovy Vary*, continues to attract an international public. In 2017, more than 370,000 visitors spent at least one night in *Karlovy Vary*, (an increase of 13% compared to 2016) who spent there in total more than 1.8 million nights; thus the average length of stay was 5.9 days in 2017. Most foreign spa guests and visitors come from Germany and Russia, a sharp increase in tourists from China was noticed in recent years. The tourism in *Karlovy Vary*, is a combination of tourism and spa industry. The decisive visitor's group, which is at the moment the biggest economic benefit to the town, are spa visitors. There exist more than 90 accommodation facilities (spa hotel, hotels, guest houses) which dispose of more than 10,000 beds.

Major activities that define a spa town – medical treatment combined with leisure activities - are still alive in *Karlovy Vary*; spa guests are offered an extensive and diverse program of entertainment and culture. The most important cultural event is the International Film Festival, one of the oldest film festivals in the world (established 1946) and most prestigious film festival in Central and Eastern Europe which is visited by tens of thousands of visitors every year. The main event of the spa season is the Blessing of the Springs (the spa season-opening) which takes place at the beginning of May and includes three days of celebrations (historical parade, musical and theatre performances and other events). Other important events include the Antonín Dvořák's International Singing Competition, Jazzfest *Karlovy Vary*, Tourfilm festival, *Karlovy Vary* Folk Festival, Dvořák's *Karlovy Vary's* Autumn and Beethoven Days. The traditional meeting of European aristocrats called 'Karlsbader Wochenende', which includes balls, concerts, masses, and musical performances, takes place in *Karlovy Vary*, at the end of April in Grandhotel Pupp, Imperial Spa and Postal Court.



Hot Spring Colonnade
(1967-75, right),
with the Church of
St. Mary Magdalene



Mlýnská (Mill)
Colonnade