

Nomination of
The GREAT
SPAS *of Europe*



for inclusion on the
World Heritage
List

Volume I: *Františkovy Lázně*, Czech Republic

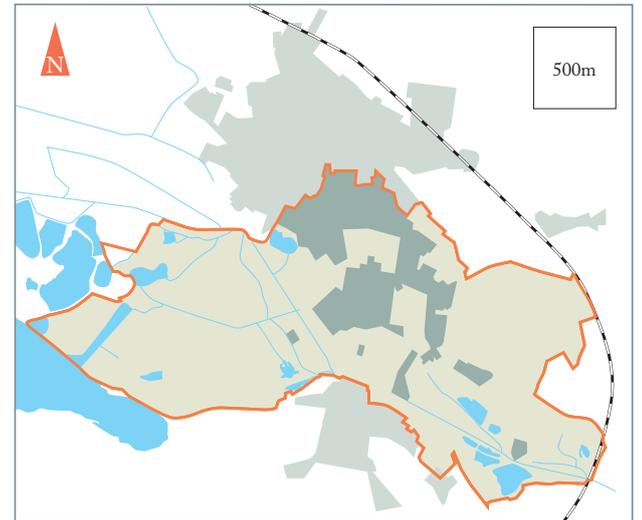


Luisa's Spring Pavilion

3. Františkovy Lázně (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Introduction

The Bohemian spa town of *Františkovy Lázně*, formerly Franzensbad, is the smallest member of the well-known and closely related West Bohemian Spa Triangle. It is a compact ensemble of urban-nature. The town was laid out from the end of the eighteenth century around 24 springs to an orthogonal plan, essentially a nineteenth century spa 'new town', and by 1890 the spa town looked like it does today. The 300m (approximate) square urban grid - a model spa town with a decidedly harmonious and united architectonic appearance - is surrounded by a characteristic triple belt of parks and an inner and outer spa landscape with architecturally interesting pavilions over the springs. The green landscaped parks extend over a kilometre to both the east and the west, and around 400m to both the north and south. These extensive and connected parks and gardens are relatively level, in contrast to a number of *The Great Spas of Europe*. In terms of promenades and therapeutic walks, however, whilst not strenuous in gradient, their length and sheer number in the network make up any shortfall in this respect. The water is used for drinking, bathing and inhalation, and the spa flourished particularly in the middle of the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the twentieth century. The town boasts the oldest peat spa in the world and inspired a number of musical and literary works by world-renowned composers and authors. Thanks to the fame of treating women's illnesses, ladies visited without the accompaniment of men, thus *Františkovy Lázně* became a place of emancipation connected with the beginning of democratisation. In the inner part of the spa quarter, there are several spa houses with balneological facilities combined with accommodation. There are no industrial facilities, nor any small craft workshops in the area, the economy being firmly rooted in the spa and tourism business. The town has a population of over 5,000, of which over 3,000 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 spa 'new town' showing its distinctive orthogonal layout



Location and setting

Františkovy Lázně lies in the Cheb basin, northwest of Cheb, in the *Karlovy Vary* Region in the most western part of the Czech Republic, some 174km west of Prague and 40km WSW of *Karlovy Vary*. The historic town, with its distinctive orthogonal pattern, is centred within the wider spa landscape - once marshy moorland but now landscaped parkland containing a widespread polycentric distribution of springs. Two streams, Slatinný potok (Peat Stream) and Lomanský potok (Lomanský Stream), flow through the area, and with these are associated numerous fish ponds. Expansive spa forests have no economic function, but serve a protective function for the natural curative water resources.



The level terrain of *Františkovy Lázně* and its setting within the Cheb Basin

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 wide polycentric distribution of springs, with their pavilions and network of connecting therapeutic and recreational pathways.
2. The principal spa ensemble centred on the town.

3.1 Springs

There are 23 actively used springs in *Františkovy Lázně* that contain the same principal chemical components, but in different quantitative ratios. The main ones are Františkův, Glauber I, II, III and IV, Luisin, Sluneční, Stanislav, Nový, Adlerův, Luční, Marie, Palliardi, Solný and Císařský. They yield cold, 9° to 16.3°C, acidulous and richly carbonated (CO₂) alkaline waters of the glauberite salty Na-SO₄Cl (HCO₃) type. Their polycentric distribution in the famous flat moorland-marsh deposit that surrounds the historic urban grid approximately corresponds to the area of the landscaped spa park that extends in a relatively narrow zone in a WNW-ESE direction. This follows the main fault zone that represents their source. The total yield of mineral water is variable according to the needs of spring administration, but around 400 litres per minute.

Františkovy Lázně is situated at the western edge of the Tertiary Cheb Basin which is characterised by deposits of the lower clay-sand formation, the so-called coal seam bed, the Cypriss and the upper clay-sand formation. Quarternary sedimentation in the outflow zone comprises a distinctive organogenic substrate of sulphate-rich humolite (organic matter, especially humus). Infiltration of atmospheric precipitation creates a descending groundwater flow from the edges of the basin to the permeable positions of the lower clay-sand formation. Deeper circulation creates strongly mineralised and gaseous (CO₂) mineral water in relatively large, tectonically controlled, secondary accumulations. The origin of the chemical components is the sedimentary basin itself, with most of the dissolved solids originating from the basin floor. Sulphates in the entire West Bohemian hot-spring region are distinct from sulphates resulting from the oxidation of pyrite and other sulphides. The origin of chlorides in the underground waters of the basin is ascribed to both the intake from deep fracture structures and leakage mineralisation. The springs, originally artesian in natural outflows but now artificially collected by wells, shallow shafts and boreholes, are linked to two deep faults in the catchment area: the Ohře (Eger) and the *Mariánské Lázně* (the latter also responsible for the springs at *Mariánské Lázně*).

Annual distribution exceeds 200,000m³ into 15 principal balneotherapeutical facilities where drinking cures, bathing, gas bathing, pelotherapeutical packs, bathing and vaginal and dental irrigations are undertaken. Curative effects are complexive, allowing the treatment of cardiovascular system, functional disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, functional dysphagia, stomach diseases, dysfunctional bile ducts and gall bladder in the sense of hypotonia, and irritable bowel syndrome. Local mud-mineral water treatment is also a traditional curative method with thermal, chemical and mechanical effects.

The area of the Cheb Basin is protected as an area of natural water accumulation by Decree, and protection of the spring structure of *Františkovy Lázně* covers practically the entire basin.

3.2 Urban ensemble of the Spa town

With regards to the degree of the preservation of the urban structure and architecture, *Františkovy Lázně* is one of the most intact preserved great spa towns. Its construction was based on the regulation plans of Abbot Tobias Gruber, founded on the Baroque principles of axuality and symmetry without the use of enclosed blocks. Construction was complemented by composite greenery and park areas. The main axis was Kaiserstrasse

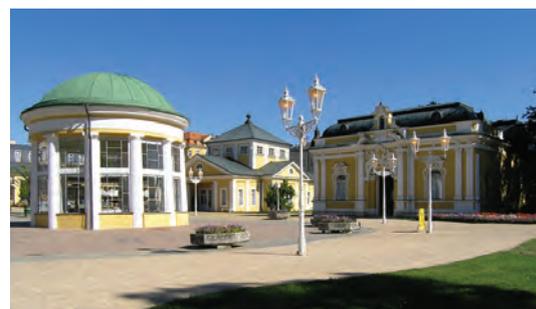
(today's Národní třída, or National Avenue), bordered on the perimeter by an alley of trees, leading towards the pavilion above Franz's Spring on one side and ending in a geometrically designed park on the opposite side. The late Baroque axial design with the main depth axis and the garden design using composite formal means was based on French garden architecture. Equestrian trails led along the outer perimeters of the spa colony, meant for horse riding, and a circular equestrian alley (a ménage) was created in the northern part of town. The entire composition of a large oval was inspired by the ground-plans of the ancient, Classical "stadium". The great development of the spa, mainly due to the increase in visitors led to the construction of new spa houses along the connecting streets, interconnected by little alleyways. The spa thus obtained a regular chessboard street plan, reflecting the forms of "ideal" ancient cities. Construction was realised in the specific spirit of Classicism with Baroque elements.

3.2.1 Building ensembles connected to 'curative' waters

Due to the discovery of springs located further away, the composition of the spa town was further expanded starting in the second decade of the nineteenth century. Gradually, a pavilion or a colonnade was constructed over every one of the springs.

3.2.1.1 Franz's Spring Pavilion (1832)

In 1832, a Classicist pavilion according to the designs of engineer Josef Esch was constructed on the site of an older pavilion at Franz's Spring. To this day, it is a notable solitary building.



3.2.1.2 New Colonnade with the Gas Baths (1912)



In 1912, the Gas Spring Pavilion and the covered colonnade area were constructed in the spirit of Neoclassicism according to the designs of Gustav Wiedermann.

3.2.1.3 Luisa's Spring and Cold Spring Pavilion (1826-27)

In 1826-27, a pavilion in the Empire style was constructed according to the designs of Wenzel Stöhr above the second oldest spring in *Františkovy Lázně*. The central building on an oval ground-plan is reminiscent of early Christian centres established in the name of a health cult.



3.2.1.4 Colonnade of the Salty and the Meadow Springs (1843)

This late Classicist building, realised by the Pilsen constructor František Filous, stands in a marsh on 1,116 posts. It was completed in 1843. The composition is made up of five

sections, and an elevated buttress rises up in the central part, onto which lower, lateral wings with internal colonnades are attached, ending with projecting buttresses with the pavilions of the Salty and Meadow Springs. A bust of the founder of the spa, Dr. Bernhard Adler, stands in front of the central pavilion.



3.2.1.5 Glauber Springs Hall (1930)

This hall was constructed in 1930 according to the designs of Ernst Engelhart as a large, Classicist Drinking Hall. Above the centre of the column hall is a large, oval extension with a tholobate, lighting up the interior. The sculptures were created by Karl Wilfert, a sculptor from Cheb, and the spring cabinets were created by Adolf Mayerl.



3.2.1.6 Spa Pavilion of Natalia's Spring (1931)



This drinking hall with a hot-spring and two wings was designed in 1930 by local architect Oskar Sgustav, and inaugurated one year later. The Neo-classicist concept of a three-part division has three elevated pavilions, complemented by promenade galleries.

3.2.1.7 Luisa's Spa (1840/49/64-72)

This Classicist one-storey building first dating to 1840 and expanded in 1849 and 1864 was completed in 1872. Peat and mineral baths were provided here. The building is constructed in the strict forms of late Classicism, and preserves its grounded mass with its low construction level in the park designs around Luisa's Spring.



3.2.1.8 Imperial Spa (1880)

This building dating to 1878–80 was constructed according to the plans of Karl Haberzettl and Gustav Wiedermann in the style of the French Renaissance Revival and financed by the banker from St. Petersburg, August Singer. It is a symbol of the rise in the significance of *Františkovy Lázně* among international spa centres. One of the many unique elements is especially the circular pool for hydrotherapy.



3.2.1.9 Moor Spa (1864)

In 1863–64, the spa doctor, Dr. Paul Cartellieri, constructed a building for peat, mineral, and salt spas according to the designs of Karl Wiedermann in the spirit of Romantic Historicism. In 1865, this spa facility was expanded by a courtyard annex.



3.2.2 Buildings for leisure and pleasure

The bath facilities were associated with large halls meant for various social events (the so-called Kursaal, Kursalon or Konversationsaal). 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, snooker halls and chess salons. In 1882, the Music Pavilion was built in the Northern Park, and in 1868, the new theatre building was built in the Morning Park to the east (Morgenzeile Park, today the Bedřich Smetana Park).

3.2.2.1 Assembly House (1794/1877)

The Spa Salon (Kursalon) was built in 1793–94. In 1876–77, it was expanded by the Conversation Hall, built according to the plans of Gustav Wiedermann in the Renaissance Revival style, roofed over by a massive barrel dome. The hall was and still is used for balls, congresses, and significant social events. With its dimensions and mass composition, the Assembly House has become a dominant building within the Spa Quarter.



3.2.2.2 Božena Němcová Theatre (1928)

In 1928, a new theatre according to the designs of Professor Arthur Payr, who taught at the German Technical University in Prague, was constructed on the site of the old theatre. It is a Neo-classicist building with elements of crystalline modernism and Art Deco in the interior.



3.2.3 Accommodation

Guests in *Františkovy Lázně* were accommodated in spa houses that originally also ensured spa treatments. Hotels were established in the nineteenth century, which not only met accommodation needs, but also provided board and social functions. Villas also served as guest-houses.

3.2.3.1 The House at the Three Lilies (1794/1827)

One of the oldest spa houses in *Františkovy Lázně* was built in 1793–94 by Anton Loimann. In 1827, the first public spa was built on, and the house thus gained its characteristic atrium courtyard. In 1808, Johann Wolfgang Goethe stayed here, and Emperor Ferdinand I stayed here in 1835 along with Prince Wenzl Lothar Metternich. The western side of the yard is enclosed with a timbered wing decorated with sgraffito.



3.2.3.2 The House at the Roman Emperor (To the Imperial Crown of Austria) (1794/1860s)

This building was constructed in 1794 by master baker, Paul Fischer. In 1805, the first pharmacy in the spa was established here. Today's appearance of the building resulted from reconstruction dating to the end of the 1860s.

3.2.3.3 The House at the Black Eagle (today part of Hotel Slovan) (1795/1828/44/70)

This building was constructed in 1794-95 by spa doctor Bernard Adler. It was expanded in 1827-28 and in 1843-44. The current Renaissance Revival appearance dates to the beginning of the 1870s.



3.2.3.4 The Beethoven House (At the Two Golden Lions) (1805/80)

This house with a façade in the style of Classicist Baroque was built in 1805 by the first lieutenant of the imperial army, Kryštof Arzberger. In 1812, Ludwig van Beethoven stayed here. The building was altered to its current state in 1880, while the volume and façade of the original building was preserved.



3.2.3.5 The Beseda House (Archduke Stephen, Russian House) (Late 1700s/1869)

This house was built at the end of the eighteenth century by the municipal architect from Cheb, Adam Schäck. Karl Wiedermann adjusted the façade in the spirit of Romantic Historicism in 1869. In 1812, Emperor Franz I stayed the night here.



3.2.3.6 Spa Hotel Savoy (The Town of Leipzig) (1795/1871)

This spa house consists of two buildings, the older, eastern building was built in 1795, and it housed the spa pharmacy. The current appearance of the façade dates to 1871 and is carried in the spirit of late Classicism.



3.2.3.7 The J. W. Goethe Spa House (The Grand Duchess of Russia) (1804)

Built in 1804 by Count von Zedwitz. In 1847-73, it served as the post office. Today's façade was altered in the Gothic Revival style in the 1850s by Karl Wiedermann. In 1814, the Grand Duchess Romanov stayed here, and the building was named after her. Other guests included Baroness von Levetzow (the mother of Ulrike) in 1817, Archduke Karl Friedrich from Weimar with his wife Maria Pavlovna (the daughter of Russian Czar Paul I) in 1829, and, in 1835, Emperor Ferdinand I.



3.2.3.8 The May Spa House (The Golden Well) (1803/65)

This building was constructed after 1803. The present Gothic Revival appearance resulted from adjustments made in 1865.



3.2.3.9 The Windsor Spa House (1863)

The building was constructed in 1862-63 according to the designs of Adam Haberzettl and Karl Wiedermann. It is one of the most significant structures of the Romantic Historicism style in *Františkovy Lázně*, in the form of the Windsor Gothic style.



3.2.3.10 The Rubeška Spa House (Belle Alliance) (1859)

Built in 1859 in the Romantic Historicism style, using the forms of the Windsor Gothic style.



3.2.3.11 The Metropol Spa House (1871)

This building was constructed in 1870-71 in the forms of Romantic Historicism. The interior, the vestibule, and the stairway are richly decorated by murals, and complemented by classical grotesques.



3.2.3.12 Hotel Pawlik (Royal Villa) (1867/1925)

This building was constructed in 1867 with a front in the Historicism style. It was altered into today's appearance in 1925 according to the designs of F. J. Prosch, an architect from *Františkovy Lázně*, in the forms of crystalline modernism. The interior has stucco decorations and the original furnishings.



3.2.3.13 Villa Imperial (1878/1927)

This grandiose villa in the Renaissance Revival style was built in 1877-78 by constructor Karl Wiedermann. In 1927, the top storey with a large loggia was added on. The interior holds an inner hall with a central stairway and column loggias.



3.2.3.14 Villa Steinsberg (1906)

Built in 1905-06 for Dr. Leopold Steinsberg according to the designs of Gustav Wiedermann in the French Gothic style. A doctor's office was located on the ground floor, and the residence was located in the upper floor.



3.2.3.15 Municipal Museum – The Fire Brigade Villa (1908)

This villa was built in 1908 for the Fire Brigade, and it served for the free spa treatment for all sick firemen. The spa doctor here was Dr. Robert Sandner.



3.2.4 Religious buildings and facilities

The international standings and the prestige of the spa town were emphasised by buildings meant for the international clientèle at the spa. Aside from the social conversation houses and reading rooms, these were sacred buildings meant for each of the confessions of the spa guests, including a synagogue (burnt down in 1938).

3.2.4.1 Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (1819)

This Roman Catholic church is built in the Classicist style and was completed in 1819.



3.2.4.2 Evangelic Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (1880/1926)



The Evangelic Church was designed and constructed in 1880 by the architect from Cheb, Karl Haberzettl. It is built in the Historicism style with Romanesque Revival elements, in the shape of Romanesque-Byzantine basilicas. In 1926, a massive, prismatic tower with a Cubist portal was built above the entrance.



3.2.4.3 Orthodox Church of St. Olga (1889)

The Orthodox Church was built in 1887-89 according to the project of architect Gustav Wiedermann. The church is lavishly painted and has remarkable icons. In 1908, the parish building was built in Zahradní (Garden) Street, again to the designs of Gustav Wiedermann.

3.3 Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape

The spa therapeutic and recreational spa landscape of *Františkovy Lázně* is an extraordinary example of a cultural landscape that was created from initially monotonous peat lands and moorlands to meet the needs of spa treatments in several steps, from the late eighteenth century until the early twentieth century. From the 1830s, the original French formal gardens were transformed into naturally landscaped parks inspired by English gardens. The new designs of the park areas were elaborated by the head gardener of the courtyard garden in Schönbrunn, J. M. Riedel. Further expansion of the parks was realised by the gardener of the imperial court botanical gardens in Vienna, Martin Soukup. In 1865-1911, the parks were further expanded under the lead of Antonín Soukup. Due to its gradual development, *Františkovy Lázně* possesses, as the only spa town, an internal and external spa landscape which is preserved to this day and is intersected by a number of marked promenades and footpaths which are collectively known as Heart routes (Srdíčkové trasy).

3.3.1 Městské sady (City Park)

It is the oldest landscaped area of *Františkovy Lázně* located north of the main city's avenue, the Národní street. In 1882 a wooden octagonal music pavilion was built here.



3.3.2 Jižní zahrady (Southern gardens) (late 1790s/1820s)

The area towards the south of the Franz's Spring represents one of the oldest and most prestigious parks in the town. The park evolved continuously from the end of the eighteenth century to the 1820s as a formal parterre garden, and from the 1820s, when it was linked with the Salt Spring Park, it was modified into a natural landscape park. In the 1930s the Hall of Glauber springs became the dominant feature of the park.



3.3.3 Sady Bedřicha Smetany (Bedřich Smetana Park) (1860s)

A new park called Morgenzeile = Eastern Park (now Bedřich Smetana Park) was created towards the east of the inner city in the 1860s. In its northwest corner, the spa theatre was built in 1868 and in the southern part the Imperial Villa in 1878. The Art Nouveau monument of Johann Wolfgang Goethe from Karl Josef Wilfert Jr. was erected in 1906.



3.3.4 Sady Solného a Lučního pramene (Parks of the Salty and Meadow springs) (1860s)



The area in front of the Colonnade of the Salty and Meadow springs and the Cartellieri Spa (now Moor Bath) was modified in the 1860s into a landscaped park. Later, in the 1880s, the park was extended towards the east and south to a number of other springs. The main promenade leads to the romantic building of the Salingburg outlook tower.

3.3.5 Westend Park (1840s)

After 1840 a landscaped park was created behind the building of the Loimann's Spa (now Louisa's Spa). On the north-western end of the park, the city pond was adapted into a Swan Lake with a small island. In 1902 a broad promenade ("Westend Avenue") was built along the Slatinný creek which connects the centre of the spa with the forestpark Amerika. In the central part a tennis court was built in 1904 with a preserved wooden pavilion.



3.3.6 Lesopark Amerika (Amerika forest park) (1880s)

This extensive forest park on the southwest edge of the city was founded in the early 1880s. It is criss-crossed by numerous paths lined by benches, gazebos and memorials. On the banks of the pond, the restaurant Amerika was opened in 1898.



3.3.7 Lesopark u Nataliina pramene (Forest park near Natalia's Spring) (1920s/30s)



After the disclosure of the Natalia's Spring in 1919, the moorland to the east of the spa town was made accessible to public. A new colonnade was built here in 1930 and the promenade along the banks of the Slatinný creek was adapted.

3.3.8 Amerika Restaurant (1898)

In 1898, a tourist restaurant in the style of romantic timbered buildings was constructed on the banks of the municipal fish pond, designed by constructor Karl Haberzettl. From one side, there was a view of Komorní Hurka (Chamber Hill), Zelená hora (Green Mountain), and the Municipal Fish Pond of Cheb (the Amerika Fish Pond), and from the other side, there was a view of the newly established forest park, with the Church of St. Jacob in Horní Lomany and Antonín (Anthony) Hillock in the background.



3.3.9 Salingburg Lookout Tower (1906)

The lookout tower was constructed in 1906 in the form of romantic medieval castle ruins with battlements and a ten-metre-high tower, which served as the lookout tower.



3.3.10 The Zámeček (Château) Tourist Restaurant (Dankwarte) (1916)

As a means of showing gratitude towards the late chairman of the committee and the mayor of *Františkovy Lázně*, Gustav Wiedermann, the Zámeček (Château) Tourist Restaurant (Dankwarte) was built in 1916, taking on the appearance of a small castle with a 12-metre-high cylindrical tower.



3.4 Spa infrastructure

Aside from the sourcing of mineral water itself for treatment purposes, the springs were also collected and sent to far off places for treatment purposes. *Františkovy Lázně* was also known for its salt production, as well as the production of other products, such as hot-spring pastilles, spa wafers, and herbal liqueurs.

3.4.1 Spa Health Centre (Mineral Water Bottling Plant) (1892)

A new bottling plant was constructed in the ostentatious Baroque Revival style in 1892 according to the designs of Josef Pascher on the site of the old bottling plant, where the waters of Franz's Spring were collected. Aside from Franz's Spring, the Cold Spring, the Salty Spring, the Meadow Spring, and later also Natalie's Spring and the Church Spring were collected and expedited here.



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

The international renown of *Františkovy Lázně*, emphasised by the attribute “World Spa”, is based on the natural mineral resources that were recommended by a range of world-renowned doctors. From as early as the sixteenth century, the so-called Cheb Seltzer was analysed and recommended by a range of significant chemists and physicians (Caspar Bruschius, Paracelsus, Jöns Jacob Berzelius, Jacobus Theodorus Tabernaemontanus, August Emanuel Reuss). Many prominent spa doctors worked here (Bernhard Vinzenz Adler, Anton Alois Palliardi, Paul Cartellieri, Friedrich Boschan). It was Dr. Adler who first started experimenting with the peat baths and with natural carbon dioxide, and whose efforts were later perfected by Johann Pöschmann and Nikolaus Benedikt Conrath.

The spa gained in popularity and prominence due, in particular, to its pioneering peat treatments. With its sophisticated system of peat baths that utilised the mineral waters, it developed as the first peat spa in the world that applied these procedures in such a manner. Furthermore, its success in treating gynaecological diseases gained an excellent reputation throughout Central Europe. *Františkovy Lázně* thus became a sought-out location by female clientèle, as ladies were allowed to travel by themselves only if they were going to a spa. Thus, the spa here became a place where the different approach to men and women was erased, an unusual and early status that contributed to the wider democratisation of society.

The picturesque environment, the serenity, and the poetry of the location led J.W. Goethe to declare *Františkovy Lázně* to be one of the most beautiful places in the heart of Europe. Goethe travelled through the spa a total of 33 times, and lived here for a short time. He spent longer in 1808, when he was involved in the geological research of the

extinct volcano of Komorní hůrka (Chamber Hill), of which he wrote a scientific text in the same year. The town was visited by a range of celebrities, such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Gottfried Herder, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Marshal Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher. *Františkovy Lázně* inspired numerous literary works, for example the Austrian author Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach wrote the essays “Aus Franzensbad” (From *Františkovy Lázně*). The famous Czech writer Božena Němcová reflected on her spa stay here in 1846 in three sketches.

Františkovy Lázně is tangibly associated with stays of many prominent visitors and important events. The following buildings which are located in the component part attest to it: in the Assembly House (3.2.2.1), the congress of Austrian hotel owners took place in 1909 followed by the fourth All-Austrian Congress of Esperantists in 1914; in 1808 Johann Wolfgang Goethe stayed at The House at the Three Lilies (3.2.3.1), as did Emperor Ferdinand I in 1835 along with Prince Wenzl Lothar Metternich, and in 1858 Austrian writer Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach; The Beethoven House (At the Two Golden Lions, 3.2.3.4) where in 1812 Ludwig van Beethoven stayed; The Beseda House (Archduke Stephen or Russian House, 3.2.3.5) where, in 1812, Emperor Franz I stayed;

The Spa Hotel Savoy (formerly Stadt Leipzig, 3.2.3.6) hosted the Serbian Queen Natalia and King Milan in 1880; The J. W. Goethe Spa House (The Grand Duchess of Russia, 3.2.3.7) where, in 1814, the Grand Duchess Romanov stayed, the building then being named after her. Other famous guests include Baroness von Levetzow (the mother of Ulrike) in 1817, Archduke Karl Friedrich of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach with his wife Maria Pavlovna Romanov (the daughter of Russian Czar Paul I) in 1829, and, in 1835, Emperor Ferdinand I; The Windsor Spa House (3.2.3.9) was visited by the composer Johann Strauss in 1884, whilst at Villa Imperial (3.2.3.13) the last Austrian Emperor, Karl I, met his future wife, Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma for the first time in 1909. After their second meeting in Villa Imperial, in 1910, they got married the following year.

3.5.1 Stadt Dresden Guesthouse

The house, built in 1794 in the Baroque Classicism style, hosted Chancellor Otto von Bismarck and his wife in 1886. It was here that Bismarck met the Russian minister of foreign affairs, Nikolay Giers.

3.5.2 Deutsches Haus (now Hotel Palace)

This house hosted Carl August, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach in 1814-16, Prince Wenzl Lothar Metternich in 1818, and Princess Augusta of Cambridge and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (a granddaughter of George III) in 1843. The house was rebuilt in 1888 in a Historicism style according to the project of Gustav Wiedermann.



3.6 Continuing spa tradition

As in the past, the spa industry continues to be the most important part of life in *Františkovy Lázně*. Nowadays, *Františkovy Lázně* belongs among the three most visited spa resorts in the Czech Republic, the spa and tourist industry is a combination of spas, wellness, and tourism. Traditionally, spa guests complete three weeks of treatments whereas wellness activities and tourist stays are usually shorter. *Františkovy Lázně* is visited especially by foreign clientele. There exist more than 53 accommodation facilities (spa hotels, hotels, guest houses) which dispose of more than 4,268 beds. The joint stock spa company, *Léčebné lázně Františkovy Lázně* belongs, with its ca. 760 employees, to the biggest employers in the region. Besides the hotels, the company owns and operates historical as well as new balneological services. There are another eighteen subjects in the town which operate in the spa industry. Two state facilities also provide spa services - *Vojenská lázeňská léčebna Františkovy Lázně* (Military Spa Sanatorium *Františkovy Lázně*) owned by the Ministry of Defence, and *Lázeňský ústav Luna* (the Spa Institute Luna), which is a part of *Lázeňské léčebné ústavy Ministerstva vnitra* (Spa Hospitals of Ministry of Interior). Accommodation and further supporting services and leisure time activities for spa guests and town visitors are provided by a number of other private as well as state subjects. Capacities of accommodation and catering facilities are continually extended.

Františkovy Lázně continues to be a centre of cultural life, spa guests and town visitors can attend a number of cultural events which are being held throughout the year. The main event of the spa season is the Blessing of the Springs with a rich cultural program which takes place at the beginning of May, traditionally it is the second weekend in May. Among other important cultural events belong the International Strauss Festival, Seeberg games, International exhibition and competition of historical cars, *Majáles* (traditional student celebration in May), Jazz festival 'Hrnčířský Swing'. The large absorption capacity of the spa town is being proved every year especially during the International Strauss festival which is visited by tens of thousands of visitors.

Orthodox Church
of St. Olga.
Františkovy Lázně

