

Ussher Society Field Excursion to Western Bohemia September 2010

This year, the Ussher Society, in conjunction with the Devonshire Association Geology Section, is planning an excursion to the western part of the Czech Republic to be led by Richard Scrivener (Ussher Society), Veronika Stedra (Czech Survey) and Jiri Konopasek (Charles University). The intention is to look at a wide range of geology including the rocks of the western Bohemian Massif, the Krusne hory (Ore Mountains), Variscan granites, metalliferous mineralization, Quaternary features, thermal spas and much more!

As planned at present, the participants should arrive in Prague using their own travel arrangements on Sunday 5th September and depart on Sunday 12th September. There are daily flights direct to Prague from a number of UK airports including Bristol, and there is also the possibility to travel by rail via Eurostar, TGV and overnight sleeper from Cologne. On arrival on Sunday 5th there will be a dinner and briefing session, with departure by coach from Prague on the morning of Monday 6th for an excursion, returning on Friday 10th as per the attached itinerary. There will be the opportunity for a free day in Prague on Saturday 11th, or for an optional excursion, possibly to the mining district of Kutna Hora.

The estimated costs include:

- Hotel accommodation in Prague 3 nights in shared twin room
- Hotel accommodation in country 4 nights in shared twin room
- Coach hire and additional expenses for printing and excursion leaders

Total based on take up by 28 people: **£340**
(NB total does not include meals and drinks)

This is an estimated cost and may be subject to alteration, but every effort will be made to achieve the best price possible. Please note that this will be arranged as a fixed package (though there will be an option for those requiring a single room or not wishing to stay on the night of Saturday 11th) and that participants will not have the option to 'buy in' using alternative travel or accommodation arrangements in the Czech republic. The costs include travel and subsistence for the excursion leaders in the Czech Republic.

As there is considerable pressure on hotel accommodation, both in Prague and the Krusne Hory during September, **I would like provisional bookings as soon as possible, and certainly no later than the end of February.** There will then be more detailed arrangements available and a request for a deposit. If you would like to make a provisional booking, or for further information, please contact

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Provisional programme for the excursion

Sunday September 5th

Arrival in Prague during the day, followed by evening dinner and briefing. Overnight at hotel in Prague (probably Kampa Garden ***)

Monday September 6th **Silver mining and mineral spas**

Depart by coach and travel to Beroun: historic silver mining at Stribro. After lunch on to the Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) Geopark with metamorphic and basic igneous rocks. Overnight at the Tepla Monastery Hotel.

Tuesday September 7th **Red beds and Variscan petrology**

Examine red beds and related Au mineralisation, then peraluminous metamorphic rocks. After lunch on to visit the Soos mud volcanoes (moffettes), the Zelena Horka volcano, then on to Karlovy Vary. Overnight at the Tepla Monastery Hotel.

Wednesday September 8th **Granites and mining**

Granite varieties and thermal springs of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) including a locality near Loket for Carlsbad feldspar twins, the Becov castle, then on to the Horní Slavkov tin mining district and museum. After lunch, moving on to Prebuz for a look at W mineralisation, then on to Jáchymov (Joachimstal) and overnight at Klášterec nad Ohří.

Thursday September 9th **Mineralisation and rocks of the Krusné Hory**

Morning to be spent in the Jáchymov area looking at Ag-U-Bi-Te mineralisation, followed in the afternoon by travel to Medanec to see the metamorphic rocks of the Saxothuringian zone, including Fe-skarns and garnet-mica schists. Overnight again at Klášterec nad Ohří.

Friday September 10th **Tertiary volcanism of the České Středohoří**

Travel from the hotel to see the dramatic Tertiary volcanic district to the SE of the Krusné Hory, with mineral localities for Czech garnet and zeolites. Return to Prague in the afternoon ready for a cultural evening in the capital, with overnight in Prague.

Saturday 11th September **Optional programme**

Free day in Prague or optional visit to the Příbram or Kutná Hora mining districts

Sunday 12th September **Departure**

The above itinerary will be subject to some changes due to local conditions and imponderables: it is not exhaustive, and there will be, for example, plenty of opportunities to see Quaternary and geomorphological features. We will also include culture stops for geologists and non-geologists alike. Before the trip, there will be an excursion guide and we hope that there will be an opportunity to purchase geological maps from the Czech Geological Survey.