

Press release:

Bike Pilgrimage to Rome

Velehrad – Padua – Rome
28th July – 12th August 2012

Orel Uherský Brod organizes a bike pilgrimage again. For the eighth time, a group of bikers will hit the road and set out for a pilgrimage the goal of which is – Rome!

The bike pilgrims will stream into the capital of Italy within the 1150th anniversary of the arrival of Saint Constantine and Methodius to our territory. It is in Rome, in Saint Clement's Basilica that the grave of Saint Cyril is found. ***The purpose of this happening is to undergo the same journey, which Saints Cyril and Methodius undertook in 867 when they went to ask Pope Hadrian II for a permission to use the Old Church Slavonic as the language of worship.***

During the previous seven bike pilgrimages the bikers have already gone through cities like Bamberg, Frankfurt, Bratislava, Budapest, Cologne, Mainz, Vienna, Krakow, Czestochowa, and they have even crossed the whole Czech Republic from the border with Germany, all the way from Cheb, to the border with Slovakia on the east. Last year, they went for a bike pilgrimage to Spain. They covered the most well-known pilgrims' path in the world, to Santiago de Compostela.

Buses with bikes will transport the participants across the Alps. They will set out for their first biking stage from Padua. **In the course of 8 stages, the bikers will also go through the cities of Ravenna, San Marino, Fabriano, or Perugia. In a free day they will have a rest in Assisi and in a famous Italian place of pilgrimage Loreto.**

The event is open to all age groups, the same as it was in the previous bike pilgrimages. The individual **stages will be planned so that even an average biker would manage.**

Applications will be received by 31st May 2012. However, even at this moment, the organizers from Orel Uherský Brod have 90 participants registered already!! There are priests among them as well, who will take care of spiritual service during the journey, like it was during all the seven previous bike pilgrimages.

There will be buses as accompanying vehicles for the transportation of backpacks and service equipment. As part of the organization team, there will be also medical and service accompaniment for bike repairs, and a cook.

All necessary information available at: www.cyklopoute.cz or with Petr Gabriel on +420 777 623 930, E-mail: info@cyklopoute.cz.

Schedule of the BIKE PILGRIMAGE 2012 to Rome:

Saturday 28/7	Meeting at Velehrad , departure to Padua in the evening
Sunday 29/7	Arrival at Padua , afternoon sightseeing in the city
Monday 30/7	Beginning of the bike pilgrimage – 1 st stage Padua – Ferrara 80 km
Tuesday 31/7	2 nd stage Ferrara – Ravenna 75 km
Wednesday 1/8	3 rd stage Ravenna – San Marino 80 km
Thursday 2/8	4 th stage San Marino – Loreto 120 km
Friday 3/8	5 th stage Loreto – Fabriano 85 km
Saturday 4/8	6 th stage Fabriano – Perugia 75 km
Sunday 5/8	Free day – visit to Assisi (by bike or by bus, 20 km)
Monday 6/8	7 th stage Perugia – Terni 90 km
Tuesday 7/8	8 th stage Terni – Rome 110 km
Wednesday 8/8	Common visit to Saint Constantine's grave in Saint Clement's Basilica
Thursday 9/8	Free day – individual sightseeing in Rome
Friday 10/8	Free day – individual sightseeing in Rome
Saturday 11/8	Departure to the Czech Republic
Sunday 12/8	Return to the Czech Republic

Main organizer:

OREL Uherský Brod

Petr Gabriel, phone +420 777623930, E-mail: info@cyklopoute.cz

Other interesting facts:

703 bikers participated in the past seven bike pilgrimages, which is an average of 100 participants per one bike pilgrimage!

The bike pilgrimages connected altogether 4,170 km which is exactly the number of kilometers that would connect Uherský Brod with Rome and back by bike :-)

And the last number will surely astonish! **If we multiply the number of all participants, who have ever biked with us, by the number of kilometers biked during the individual bike pilgrimages, we will arrive at the unbelievable number of 402,560 km. Such a number of kilometers were biked together by all participants in the seven bike pilgrimages!**

Recap of the previous seven bike pilgrimages:

Cities and villages, from which the bike pilgrimages departed and where they spent their nights:

Bike pilgrimage to Mariazell 2004 (Central European pilgrimage) – **250 Km, 115 participants**

Znojmo (ŠR) – Retz – Krems - Gaming and Mariazell (all in Austria)

Bike pilgrimage to Cologne 2005 (XX World Youth Days) – **910 Km, 50 participants**

Cheb (Czech Republic) - Marktredwitz – Bamberg – Schonunungen – Wertheim – Frankfurt- Oberwesel - Koblenz–Vallendar and Cologne (all in Germany)

Bike pilgrimage to Mariazell 2007 (Central European Meeting of the Youth) – **430 km, 94 participants**

Uherský Brod - Mikulov (both in the Czech Republic) – Vienna – Krems - Gaming and Mariazell (all in Austria)

Bike pilgrimage to Czestochowa 2008 (traveling to the Polish place of pilgrimage) – **480 km, 83 participants**

Uherský Brod – Kelč - Dolní Domaslavice (Czech Republic) – Auschwitz – Krakow - Zawiercie – Czestochowa (Poland)

Bike pilgrimage 2009 across the Czech Republic – In the footsteps of Czech saints (biking to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Orel) – **850 km, 102 participants**

Cheb – Teplá – Nepomuk – Prachatice – Zálší – Želiv – Křižanov – Boskovice – Olomouc – Svatý Hostýn – Velehrad – Uherský Brod (all in the Czech Republic)

Bike pilgrimage to Hungary 2010 (round trip) - **700 km, 126 participants**

Uherský Brod (Czech Republic) – Šaštín – Bratislava (both Slovakia)– Ásvanýráró – Tata
– Budapest – Esztergom (all in Hungary) – Nitra – Nové Mesto nad Váhom (all in
Slovakia) – Uherský Brod (Czech Republic)

Bike pilgrimage 2011 2005 (XXVI World Youth Days) - 550 km, 133 participants

Burgos – Santiago de Compostela – Madrid