



Open Gates 2012

The Open Gates project . in the Zlín region makes accessible significant sacral monuments of historical, spiritual and architectonic value. Trained guides, who familiarize visitors with the history of the place as well as with the sacral space, are available from 1st May to 30th September. Each of the churches is unique and each of them will captivate through its genius loci.

When a person enters the mysterious twilight of a temple for the first time, without knowing why he is coming there, he perceives something, which he usually cannot see; something which is different, which he is unable to describe and yet, which addresses him, which brings into his life some different information. What is that which talks to him? The majesty of architecture and of fine arts, the prayed-through silence, or the anticipation of an intimate closeness of the Unknown? Beauty has many forms and we can hardly define it. However, we can always tell when it affects us. Beauty is a desire for completeness of the Whole, which we anticipate in our hearts.+(Helena Mráková)

No less important is also the aspect of cooperation among all the participating subjects, the collaboration of which is very creative and accommodating. The project is an extraordinary deed of the Zlín region, the Archbishopric of Olomouc, the Matice Svatohostýnská Foundation, and the villages and parishes of the region.

In 2011, 21 churches were introduced. They were visited by almost 100,000 people in five months. The oldest visitor was 98 years old; the youngest ones were brought in baby carriages. Guests from the most remote countries were from Japan, Australia and Canada. This year, there are 20 churches participating in this project. Individual parishes coordinate the regime of the sightseeing tours, which is varied, from the full regime, i.e. every day, to weekend regime, i.e. Saturday and Sunday. In some churches the sightseeing tour is supplemented with accompanying programs, or it is part of local festivities (pilgrimages, memorials, and the like). Further information available on <http://www.kr-zlinsky.cz/otevrene-brany-cl-714.html>.

The Zlín region guarantees the issuing of promotional material. Printed matters in foreign language mutations are available in churches and information centers. In the gestion of the region is also the provision of expert training to the guides who will, consequently, familiarize visitors with all the interesting aspects of the monument and the place. In 2012, there are more than 160 trained guides. The most numerous group of those interested consists of students and active seniors. This year, there will be a specific regime for guiding in the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and Saints Cyril and Methodius at Velehrad, where a large reconstruction is taking place and its operation is limited. Yet, the parish remains a collaborator within the project.

A list of monuments participating in the project:

Sv. Hostýn . Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Zlín . Church of Saints Philip and Jacob
- Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary (Žtípa)
- Evangelic church

Te ovice . Church of Saint Jacob the Major

Provodov . Church of the Virgin Mary Snowy

Luha ovice . Church of the Holy Family

Krom ío . Church of Saint John the Baptist
- Church of Saint Moritz
- Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Holezov . Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary
- Saint Anne's Church

Chropyn . Saint Giles' Church

St ílky . Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Rajnochovice . Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary and of Saint Anne

Uherské Hraditz . Church of Saint Francis Xavier

Uherský Brod . Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

Vsetín . Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Ro0nov pod Radhozt m . All Saints' Church

Zazová . Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary