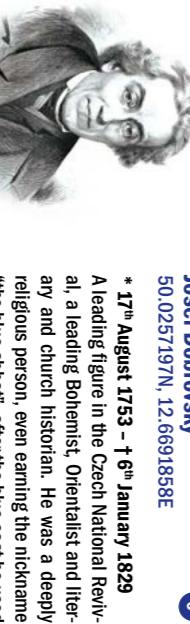


**Franz Kafka**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1883 - † 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1924**  
Kafka was a Prague author of Jewish origin who wrote in German. During his lifetime his works were virtually unknown – they were only appreciated after his death. In 1916 he spent several unhappy days in Mariánské Lázně with his fiancée. Today his works are regarded as classics of 20th-century literature and Kafka is considered one of the greatest literary figures of all time. His books show his personal mental diversity and feelings of exclusion and isolation, keys motifs in his works.



**Maxim Gorkij**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 28<sup>th</sup> August 1868 - † 18<sup>th</sup> June 1936**

Russian writer and a pioneer of socialist realism. In his works Gorkij illustrates an elementary talent and his close relationship with the landscape of the Volga region. The main colonnade in Mariánské Lázně was named in honour of the visits this famous writer made to the town.



**Franz Kafka**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**3**



**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe** 1  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 28<sup>th</sup> August 1749 - † 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1832**  
The greatest German poet, dramatist, philosopher, lawyer, humanist and politician. He loved travelling to Bohemia in particular to the spa towns of Károly Vary, Teplice, Mariánské Lázně. As an old man he experienced the last love of his life in Mariánské Lázně with the 17-year-old Ulrika von Levetzow. They first met in 1821 when Goethe was 72 years old. In 1823, the poet asked Ulrika from her hand in marriage but she turned him down ". He expressed his disappointment in the poem „Mariánské Lázně Elegy". He died at the age of 83 after catching a cold while out horseriding.

**Mark Twain**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**2**

**\* 30<sup>th</sup> November 1835 - † 21<sup>st</sup> April 1910**  
American journalist, writer and humourist. His most famous works are *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*. He visited Mariánské Lázně in the summer of 1891 and described life at the spa and the treatments he underwent with a dose of humor. In the last year of Twain's life his fame grew but his satire and humour turned bitter. The reason for this was a lack of success in his private life, personal tragedies, the failure of his business dealings and the death of his wife and both daughters. He was active in denouncing the expansion of imperialism, but slowly lost his optimism.



**Mark Twain**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**3**

## MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ



### Writers Trail

The idea of creating a Writers Trail dates back to 2017 and the 85th birthday of the Czech novelist Vladimír Páral.

Over 2018 and 2019, some 11 panels were installed around the town reminding us of the writers, poets and philosophers that stayed in Mariánské Lázně at various points in time. Work on the trail continued until 2022. The complete circuit now consists of 15 panels.

The Writers Trail takes walkers to places where famous literary figures sought both treatment and inspiration. It provides an opportunity to refresh your knowledge of literature and history, get some exercise and perhaps discover the writer or poet in you. The trail heads through the town as well as via parks and stretches of forest, along streams, and past pavilions and colonnades containing curative springs. And when you grow tired, take a rest on a bench or in one of the town's many cafes.

You can head out barefoot or in shoes, early morning or in the evening, with a book in your hand or without, and in every season. You can break the trail down into stages to save your legs if need be. The whole route is 8.855 steps long, that's 7km, and has 15 stops where plaques and busts commemorate the fact that a famous individual stayed there.

And if you still have energy after the Writers Trail, why not try out some other hiking trails – there are countless options around Mariánské Lázně and in the Smart Guide app.

- **basic information**
- **map**
- **information about the authors**



**Ivan Neruda**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**12**



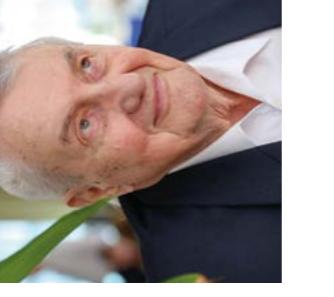
**Ivan Neruda**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 9<sup>th</sup> July 1834 - † 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1891**  
Czech poet, novelist, journalist, dramatist, literary and theater critic, leading figure in the Májovci literary movement. He managed to infuse his poetry with so much love and enthusiasm and artistic value that many say his works remained fresh for almost the entire century. He described the spa town of Mariánské Lázně in 1872 in his travel diary and in a short story.

**Jan Neruda**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**13**



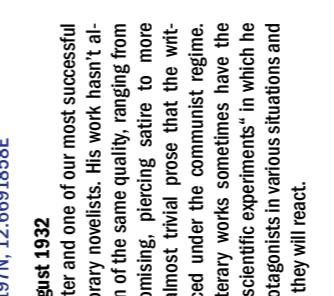
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**Vítězslav Nezval**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**14**



**Vítězslav Nezval**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 26<sup>th</sup> May 1900 - † 6<sup>th</sup> April 1958**  
Czech poet, writer, journalist and translator, co-founder of so-called poetism, a leading figure in Czech surrealism and holder of the title "national artist". He visited Mariánské Lázně in the 1930s with other members of the Devětsil movement, and in 1946 he opened the film festival here. A member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, he was decorated for his work towards world peace.

**Ivan Olbracht**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**15**



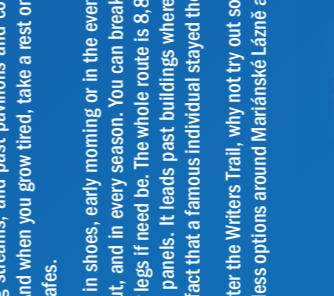
**Ivan Olbracht**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 6<sup>th</sup> January 1882 - † 30<sup>th</sup> December 1952**  
Czech left-wing literary figure of Jewish origin, journalist and translator of German prose and author of the well-known *Nikola Suhaj the Robber Stories*. During his time in Mariánské Lázně he liked to wander the surrounding forests. His life and work are the subject of some controversy due to his activities in and support of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

**Sigmund Freud**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**16**



**Sigmund Freud**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 6<sup>th</sup> May 1875 - † 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1939**  
The world-famous Austrian doctor and neurologist is best known as the author of psychoanalysis. Through electrotherapy and hypnosis and he came up with his own methods and theories concerning the human personality – psychoanalyse. When in town, he stayed with the doctor and mayor of Mariánské Lázně, Hans Tuha.

**Theodor Lessing**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**17**



**Theodor Lessing**  
50.0257197N, 12.66691858E  
**\* 8<sup>th</sup> February 1872 - † 31<sup>st</sup> August 1933**  
German philosopher, psychologist, journalist of Jewish origin and a fierce critic of German national socialism. He held a radically sceptical and pessimistic opinion of the world, and after his experiences in WWI he became a pacifist. He was murdered by the Nazis in Mariánské Lázně which caused an international uproar.



**Vydala:** VISIT Mariánské Lázně, lokální destinacní agentura  
KIS Mariánské Lázně s.r.o.,  
Hlavní 47, Mariánské Lázně, 353 01 v roce 2023  
**Ilustrace:** Ludmila Miková  
**VISIT**  
MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ  
Živý kraj  
KULTURA  
MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ  
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