



February 2012

Introduction to Conference Locations

This year's conference is situated in the UNESCO protected site – the region of Hruboskalsko, Czech Paradise. We chose this location to uphold the theme of our conference and to support the conservation efforts of UNESCO in this protected site. With conservation in mind, our goal is to prepare an environmentally friendly conference, sustaining its natural resources and assuring consistently sustainable development.

We are also pleased to work with an environmental sustainability specialist, whose main role will be to oversee all conference environmental waste activities, assuring that the environmental standards are followed in accordance with the conference philosophy.



Hrubá Skála castle

Hrubá Skála castle

Since 14th century, this castle perched high on top of sandstone rock, dominating the area of Dragon Teeth Rocks. After it was confiscated in 1945, the Revolutionary Trade Unions as a recreational facility used it for the best workers and party activists. Sadly, the trade unions invested very little to improve hotel standards since 1945. Although somewhat worn out, it is still the favourite Outdoor Discovery base - it is not "chateau" luxury, but a splendid location and an authentic "castle feeling" that makes it a much demanded place of accommodation. This castle is a place with history and atmosphere.

The castle can accommodate up to 152 guests at a time, in rooms of various standards. The Kastelan building at the first castle yard contains mostly multi-bed rooms with shared facilities. The hostel-like Kastelan is used mostly by youth and student groups. Private facilities have been recently added to the rooms situated in the main castle building and the Wallenstein wing. Altogether, Hrubá Skála offers 29 rooms with private facilities and another 28 rooms with shared facilities.

Hruba Skala has a reception (open 08.00 – 22.00) by the castle entrance in Kastelan gate, a bar, dining hall, 2 clubrooms furnished partly with remnants of original historic furniture and a former "cinema hall" used for larger meetings and conventions. There is a Stekl Hotel a few steps away with another restaurant and money exchange.

The closest bigger town is Turnov at a distance of 7 km. Turnov, although rather unexceptional itself, provides usual range of delights such as ice-cream, shopping, pizzeria, discotheque, etc. Prague is 90 km from Hruba Skala (approx. a 50 min. drive on the new highway).

Outdoor activities around Hruba Skala: The fascinating Hruba Skala labyrinth stretches just behind the castle premises - the area of almost endless trekking possibilities. The Outdoor Discovery has a mountain bike rental (with 50 well maintained

mountain bikes of reputable manufacturers) right in the castle. This area also provides exciting, yet safe venue for orienteering contests. There are also Sedmihorky Lakes, located only 20 min. walking distance from the castle, offering swimming in natural lakes & sandy beaches from camping sites. For those with romantic soul, a rain-free bivouacking is possible in rock overhangs or sandstone caves within walking distance from the hotel (with our instructors available in giant overhangs of Lighthouse Rocks).

Surprisingly, the area is not exactly suitable for beginner's rock climbing - the local sandstone is extremely soft and therefore we prefer climbing with our beginners in the Dry Rocks area (13 km away). On the other hand, it is possible (and exciting) to go rappelling and zip-lining off the Burma bridge directly from the castle walls to the canyons surrounding Hruba Skala.

Sedmihorky Spa

Founded in the 19th century as a resort centre near mineral springs, the charming complex of former spa buildings is situated in the forest, just a short walk from the Hruba Skala Castle and rock labyrinth - one of the most scenic setting in the region.

The central building houses cafeteria, dining room, reception and discotheque in the evenings. The spa houses, now turned

into hostels are scattered around. Two, three and four bedded rooms with shared WC and showers are at guest's disposal.

Hiking attractions: Hruba Skala and Wallenstein medieval castles, Bethlehem rocks, Hruba Skala rock Labyrinth, the district town of Turnov.



Sedmihorky Spa ...



Pramen

Pramen is 3 star building offering accommodation in apartments of 2-4 beds with private facilities and TV, fridge. The total capacity of the building is 45 beds. Pramen is just few steps from the main building with reception and dining room.

Zámeček

This is a 3 star accommodation in apartments of 2-6 beds with private facilities, such as TV and fridge. The total capacity of the hotel is 35 beds. Zamecek is just in front of the main building with reception and dining room.



Zámeček ...



Pension Podháj

Founded in the 19th century as a resort centre near mineral springs, the charming complex of former spa buildings is situated in the forest, just a short walk from the Hrubá Skála Castle and rock labyrinth - one of the most scenic setting in the region.

The central building houses cafeteria, dining room, reception and discotheque in the evenings. The spa houses, now turned into hostels are scattered around. Two, three and four bedded rooms with shared WC and showers are available.

Hiking attractions: Hrubá Skála and Wallenstein medieval castles, Bethlehem rocks, Hrubá Skála rock Labyrinth, the district town of Turnov.

Penzion Podháj is located in the forest, about 400 m from the main building. It offers rooms with more beds, maximum of 81 people. Buffet breakfast is served in club room on the ground floor, lunch and dinner are served in the main building at Sedmihorky, 400m away.

Stará hájovna - old gameskeeper's house

This accommodation is created in a hundred year old gamekeeper's house. The rooms are arranged in a historic style of the 20th century, where you will be able to experience an ancient lifestyle of those living in the area hundreds of years ago. You too, will be fortunate to explore the beauty of the Czech Paradise, a UNESCO heritage site.

Sedmihorky camping

CABIN FLORA

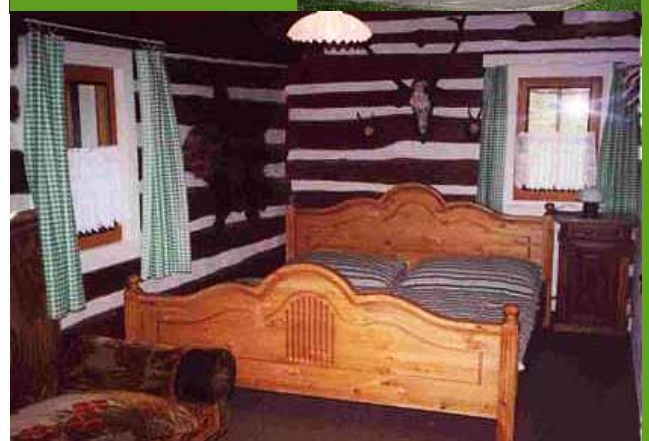
7-bed two-story cabins with facilities (toilet, wash basin and 10l water heater). Showers are available in common facility. The cabin is provided with an equipped kitchenette (dishes, gas stove, refrigerator and kitchen range, 10l water heater). On the ground floor there is a small corridor, kitchenette, a room with three beds and a small roofed veranda. On the first floor there is another room with four beds. There are wicker chairs, stools and a small table. The cabin has own heating with possibility of year-round operation.

Number of cabins: 4

Double, three-bed and four-bed small cabins, equipped with two, three or four stools, the same number of beds (bunks), a table, a closet and a shelf. There is no toilet or shower in these cabins.



Pension Podháj ...



Stará hájovna ...

CABIN KARINA

7-bed two-story cabins with facilities - on the ground floor there is a small corridor, kitchenette, a three-bed room and a small outdoor roofed terrace. The whole cabin has own independent heating with option of year-round operation.

Number of cabins: 5

Cabins offer showers, washbasin and toilette. The cabin has its own equipped kitchenette - dishes, electric double stove, refrigerator and kitchen range. There is another room on the first floor with four beds and a small veranda providing a view of a pond. There are wicker chairs, stools and small table.



Camping Sedmihorky..

Keynote Speakers:

Michael Ungar, Ph.D.



is a Killam Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University where he directs the Resilience Research Centre that coordinates more than 5 million dollars in funded research in a dozen countries. That research is focused on resilience among children, youth and families and how they together survive adversity in culturally diverse ways. He has published over 75 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on this topic and is the author of 11 books including *The Social Worker*, his first novel. Among his books for professionals are *The Social Ecology of Resilience: A Handbook for Theory and Practice*, *Counseling in Challenging Contexts: Working with Individuals and Families Across Clinical and Community Settings*, and *Strengths-based Counseling with At-risk Youth*. He also writes for parents and educators. Among his most recent works are *We Generation: Raising Socially Responsible Children and Teens* and *Too Safe For Their Own Good: How Risk and Responsibility Help Teens Thrive*. In addition to his research and writing, Michael maintains a family therapy practice in association with Phoenix Youth Programs, a prevention program for street youth and their families, and was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Social Workers Distinguished Service Award for Nova Scotia in 2010. His work has been featured in numerous magazines (Reader's Digest, Body and Soul, Today's Parent) and newspapers (Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, USA Today) around the world, and he regularly appears on radio and television. Currently, he is Co-Chair of the Nova Scotia Mental Health Strategy Advisory Committee. His blog, *Nurturing Resilience*, can be read on Psychology Today's website.

Masego Thamaku, MA.



has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Botswana, and a Master's degree from Swansea University, Wales, in Child Welfare and Applied Childhood studies. Masego has been working in several positions practicing and leading work on the ground since 1999. She has always worked in leading roles throughout her career: She initiated and developed hospital social work in Kanye Hospital – Botswana in 1999; She then served for a USA/Botswana HIV testing project as Coordinator of Maun Centre in 2000- 2001. She was then contracted by People and Nature Trust as Program Coordinator to develop and implement the wilderness therapy program that has now given birth to the organisation she currently directs, Ark and Mark Trust. As the Executive Director for Ark and Mark Trust Masego serves as a program developer and trainer for all government social workers in Botswana. She is a practitioner and an accredited trainer in therapy for Adolescents and has trained over 103 implementing social workers in the therapy that she has developed.

Her organisation runs a wilderness therapy program called EARTH. EARTH wilderness therapy is a program for adolescent orphans and vulnerable children in Botswana. EARTH therapy has made so much impact in the lives of these adolescents and their families to the extent that the government of Botswana was moved to replicate the program all over the country. Through partnership with government the program covers over 93 villages and 10 district councils in the country. To date, over 9800 children and 5050 families have gone through EARTH therapy.

Although she is mainly a practitioner, Masego has published a book chapter and several articles. All in all she is a passionate practitioner in her field.



Opening Address:

Contribution of Czech Culture to Experiential Education and Adventure Therapy

provided by

Andy Martin & Jiri Kirchner

Andy Martin, Ph. D.

is an Associate Professor with research focus on Applied Learning at Massey University in New Zealand. For the past 15 years his research has been focused on the social and cross cultural anthropological outdoor connections and historical roots of Czech education in nature. His doctoral thesis and book 'Outdoor & Experiential Learning' focused on the outcomes and educational process of Vacation School Lipnice (VSL), part of Outward Bound Czech Republic. Until recently there has been a lack of availability of much information in English about the Czech style of experiential programming. His work presents material devoted to the theory and background to the 'dramaturgy' approach of outdoor program design, and aims to demystify and open up these techniques to those who wish to understand and try these ideas in their programs. It also captures the essence of various innovative, novel and refreshing approaches to group activities, and offers depth and conceptualization of these activities from a theoretical perspective. His research and teaching also focuses on sport management & coaching education and in particular work based experiential learning. Andy has worked with a variety of sport, business and outdoor organizations developing experiential programs.



Organizing Team:

Jiri Kirchner, Ph. D.

Organizing Committee Head and Scientific Board Head

Jiri Kirchner, Ph. D. is the president of the European Science and Art Corporation. He graduated from Charles' University, the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport in Prague and defended his Ph. D. thesis on adventure sports and its influence on psychological state. He was the Guarantor of the bachelor degree in Outdoor Activities at J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (Czech Rep.) and coordinator of Experiential Education and Outdoor Studies Summer School (EEOSSS); he is the member of the Adventure Therapy International Committee (ATIC), the main secretary of the Czech Sport Psychologists Association and European Science and Art Publishing Editorial Board Head. He was working for Ostrava 2015 – Candidate for the European Capital of Culture as a project coordinator. Jiri's specialization is experiential education, adventure therapy, stamina and music psychology, curriculum development, outdoor sports, music, management and marketing of creative industries. He is an active player of double bass, piano, guitar, mandolin, bass guitar, accordion, percussion, drums, dulcimer etc.



Hana Kasakova

PR & Communications Department Head

Before her maternity leave, Hana worked for the organization Dermacol as a sales manager for the Czech Republic. Presently she is taking care of her two rascals, (her husband and a 3 year old son), both outdoor adventures-inclined. Her maternity leave is due at the same time as the conference abstracts, which means, that after this date, the conference fees increase due to lack of government support. She will, however, continue to work full time as part of the organization team.



Petra Fantova, MSc., BA, MA

Post-Conference Programme Head

PPetra is a Physical Education and Geography graduate from University of Labe. After her graduation, she decided to travel to California, USA in order to gain new experience, where she had an opportunity to improve her English, work with children and study Website Design and Production at West Valley College (emphasis on Production, obtaining an Associate in Science degree). While in the United States, Petra also spent her time traveling and exploring the beautiful scenery. In her free time Petra likes to play sports, socializing with others and read books. At the moment, she works as a teaching assistant at Blue Hills Highschool in Cuperin, assisting not only children, but also as a teaching assistant. We believe that the experience gained during her travels will allow her to use her organizational skills while leading a successful post-conference programme. This conference programme will focus on introduction to culturally diverse concepts of adventure therapy and outdoor education, contributing as an asset and inspiration for the global development of the adventure therapy.



Jakub Hasil, MSc.

Resource & Technical Department Head

Jakub Hasil is a graduate of a Physical Education and Sport Management at Charles University, Czech Republic. Presently, Jakub works as a Leisure and Recreation educator, as well as an organizer of various sporting competitions. Since the year 2000, Jakub has been a chairman of the World Table Hockey Association. In addition to table hockey competitions, Jakub also organizes outdoor camps and a variety of other leisure activities for children and youth. Jakub also helps fundraise for a daycare in the city of Most. Jakub's role in this organization team is acting as a fundraising specialist, raising financial support from various grants. This special role is keeping everyone in line - assuring that from a financial management side of things, everything is working as a well-oiled machine.



Katarina Steele, BA.

Organizing Support

Born in Slovakia, Katarina is excited to be a part of the organizational team for the 6th Adventure Therapy Conference. Katarina currently lives in Canada, where she studied Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism. Since her graduation, she's been provided with a variety of opportunities in an outdoor experiential and wilderness education. Katarina was first introduced to adventure therapy at the 2IATC in Victoria, Canada, inspiring her to pursue adventure therapy in future. She is currently working as a Youth and Family Support Worker with Enviros Wilderness School. One of Enviros' programs is an intensive, 3 month adventure-based wilderness program for youth and families. This program provides support for healing from substance abuse issues in a residential setting of the Ghost Wilderness of Alberta. Katarina's role at the 6IATC is to assist in pre-conference newsletter translation, helping all visitors to Czech Republic make sense of any conference happenings. Katarina's passion for adventure and travel has taken her around Canada and the United States; allowing her to pursue many climbing, mountaineering and skiing adventures.



Blanka Markova, MSc.

Resource Support

Blanka Markova is a PhD student of Political and Cultural Geography at Ostravska University, as well as a member of the academic board for the faculty of Science. Currently she is the president of Sustainable Development Institute and the Communications and Development manager for the National Cluster Association. Blanka is also a member of the regional management centre. She was also a project developer for the city of Ostrava nomination as the cultural capital of Europe. Blanka took part in a 6 month intership with Austrian consulting company CIMA Osterreih GmbH (2005). She specializes in cultural politics and governance, cluster initiatives and city marketing. She enjoys travelling, snowboarding and listening to alternative music. Her family owns vineyards in Southern Morava, which proves her to be a wine connoisseur. A wine lover herself, she will be happy to persuade you of the best wines in the area. Another part of the Moravian culture is introducing you to the best quality wine, which Blanka will be responsible for at this conference.



Dipl. Ing. Lucie Halakucova, BSc.

Environmental Keeper

Working as a company manager supporting environmental education in the Czech Republic, Lucie studied Regional Engineering, where during her undergraduate and graduate studies she focused on the issues of biological wastes of selected cities. She also studied Outdoor Activities at the University of J.E. Purkyne in Usti nad Labem. Her bachelor's research was an unusual combination of both undergraduate studies, giving her an opportunity to major in environmental games in the outdoors. Lucie enjoys to travel and be physically active in the outdoors, as well as playing softball, squash, volleyball, etc. Her responsibility is to maintain the integrity of the unique UNESCO protected area by ensuring that the conference is environmentally responsible throughout its duration. For this reason, you can look forward to her disciplinary actions for every improper disposal of candy wrappers and for walking in protected areas.



Gill Houlsey, BA

Organizing support

Gill Houlsey has a first class BA (Hons) in Outdoor Studies. She completed her undergraduate studies at St Martin's College, Ambleside and Charles University, Prague. Since then Gill has followed her interests in International Dimensions and Therapeutic applications. Gill has worked as an outdoor practitioner in many settings over the years with a focus on supporting young people in care and with learning difficulties. She has also designed and implemented a therapeutic outdoor learning programme for young people with autism. Gill is currently completing her MA in Art Therapy. As a trainee she worked in a hospice where she was part of running an outdoor art therapy programme. She was also part of organising an exhibition and a study weekend considering the links between Art Therapy, Nature and the outdoors. Gill has a keen interest in ecopsychology and is exploring this further in her Independent Study which is a creative enquiry into the concept of an ecological self-portrait. Gill was invited to run the Aesthetics & Creativity module on the Outdoor Studies course at the University of Cumbria and has contributed lectures and workshops to both under and post graduate modules since. Gill has represented her country in white water rafting in European Cup and Championship events between 2007 and 2010. Gill has recently taken on a facilitator's role at a values led leadership centre on the Isle of Skye. She is enjoying the island lifestyle and also volunteers for the local Mountain Rescue team. In her spare time she enjoys cycling, kayaking and being creative. Gill's main responsibility in our organization team will be to create a conference newsletter – a daily compilation of conference happenings, news and bits of relevant professional or entertaining information



Veronika Wölfelova

Graphic designer, Webmaster

Veronika is a student at Bohemian glassworks high school in Kamenicky Senov, Europe's oldest school of its kind. She specializes predominantly in computer graphics. Veronika's graphics will be used in a variety of supporting conference materials and brochures. Being an avid climber and an outdoor enthusiast, we believe that her passion for the outdoors will be displayed in her graphic design, encouraging those seeking adventures and interest in adventure therapy. Feel free to take a look at the 5IATC layout, also designed by Veronika.



Edward M. Benes

WebSite Developer

A telecommunications and internet technology enthusiast, Edward works at the computer science centre at Usti University. Edward's present interest is mainly his little daughter, as well as being the chief volunteer firefighter. Due to a busy involvement in his activities, Edward works hard to present you with the timely and innovative 6IATC website."



For participants from Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland and Hungary) we offer a low fee of 222 € during the registration period. The abstract submission deadline has also been extended until March 31, 2012. We encourage you to register soon, as the capacity is limited.

➤ *Register now here*


 <http://www.6iatc.eu/index.php/6th-iatc-registration>



In the next newsletter you will find :

- *Information about the progress in the preparation of the conference*
- *Transport information*
- *Information about Pre-conference and Post conference programme*

Expect the next issue of the newsletter in April 2012

 *For email Newsletter make a registration on www.6iatc.eu.*