





Comments to the recommended walk from the hotel to the PhD event location

(see numbers on page 1), with some questions from Jan for those seeking answers:

1. When leaving the hotel, turn right. Go 2., 3., 4. ...
5. In this street, you shall walk along the church of St Jakob. If you got 3 minutes of spare time, do have a look inside (entrance behind the corner) to see its lovely baroque-style decorations. ***What did they like to draw on the ceilings then?***
6. Do not be afraid to go through the gate! Actually, here you enter the early medieval customs office of the city, called Ungelt (7)
8. Leave Ungelt and go straight, past the major gothic church „Church of Our Lady before Týn“. A very important astronomer is buried there. ***Who was that?***
9. Enter the Old Town Square. In the get-together game, you will be looking for the commemorative plaque on the house where Albert Einstein used to meet friends, and will try to understand what the Astronomic clock shows... However, I may wish to ask you also about the big statue on your right. ***Why is this statue exactly 100 years old? What art style is it?*** (A hint: the same style as the Municipal house, see the comments below) ***What was the highest position that Jan Hus achieved at the University? And what happened in my country after execution of this man?*** In front of you, the big Old Town tower with the Astronomic clock from 1410 can be seen – but wait, this is **not** the Astronomical Tower, although many sites on the internet say so! Weather permitting, I shall be meeting some of you near the real Astronomical Tower which is not far from here! Another question... under the Old Town tower, 27 crosses in white can be found in the pavement. ***What do the crosses symbolise? What happened to my country after the date which is given there?***
11. I bet you noticed the posh shops in this street of luxury houses. It was build at the very end of 19th century after demolishment of the old Jewish town (many educated people protested against the demolitions and called it „Bestia triumphant“). Only a few synagogues and an old cemetery remained. In the loft of this synagogue, legend says that Golem lies (wrong, Golem is where the PhD event takes place!) Try and find a Jewish clock near this synagogue, and notice it goes anticlockwise! A rabbi, whose name was linked to Golem, is buried in the nearby cemetery. ***What was his name?***

Comments to the recommended return night walk (main tourist hub, safe but crowded):

- B. Here, on your right, there is a rare example of a cubist house (indeed, the Picasso's style), including the interior (House of the Black Madonna). For those who have 10 minutes spare, if you turned right here, then after approx. 200 m you would come (from its back...) to the Estates theatre, where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart himself conducted the first night of Don Giovanni, with a great success. Next to this Opera there is the Charles University Rectorate. Its gothic part is one of the oldest University buildings in the world (I got my diploma there ☺) For those who do not have any spare time the direction is straight on, through the gothic gate (indeed, this was a gate in the city walls then).
- C. On your left, the Municipal house - our independence hall, and the seat of the Prague symphonic orchestra. ***What style is this?*** By the way, the seat of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra is just two blocks away from where the PhD event takes place, near the Metro station, it is the sumptuous building with a small park.
- D. Well, little to do with history – on your left, next to your hotel really, is the major shopping centre of the central Prague. Souvenirs typical for my country are e.g glasswork or wooden toys. You can also buy Lázeňské oplatky (Czech spa wafers) or just a few bottles of a good beer.

In the inner yard of this building we may meet on Sunday...

