

Jan Hus (1370 Husinec – 1415 Constance) was a Czech Catholic priest, a medieval religious philosopher and a rector at Prague University. His sermons criticized the decline of the church and thus his teachings were marked as heresy, Hus was forbidden to practice priestly, and he retired. At a time when he was called upon to defend his teachings and attend the Council of Constance, he stayed at Krakovec Castle. From here, or directly from Prague, he set out on his way to the Constance through the premises of his friends who gave him the shelter. Unfortunately, he was burned for his teachings here on July 6, 1415.

The Hussites were followers of Jan Hus's teachings and followers of a religious, national and social motivated movement in the 15th century. Hussitism spread throughout the whole of Bohemia and was a major hit in the history of Central Europe. However, the new Czech and Protestant churches emerged from Hus's teachings; world reformers, such as Martin Luther and Jan Kalvin, referred to his ideas. But Jan Hus himself was always faithful to the Catholic Church. He sought to remedy the situation at that time, not to reform it. That is why Jan Hus is a symbol of a fight for freedom of thought and tolerance, which is the inspiration for all Christians, supporters of other religions and atheists.

Pilgrims can go in the footsteps of this world personality on his last trip from Bohemia to the German Constance, thanks to Jan Hus' Pilgrimage. This is a challenge not only for spiritually motivated pilgrims, but also for those who want to clean their mind during a hiking tour across the abandoned but picturesque landscape of Bohemia. The route is bi-directional (from Bohemia to Germany and from Germany to Bohemia) and is about 250 km long. It connects important Czech historical sites and places linked to Jan Hus or his followers, such as: Prague, Karlštejn, Beroun, Žebrák – Točnick, Krakovec, Kralovice, Rabštejn, Manětín, Nečtiny, Úterý, Bezdružice, Konstantinovy Lázně, Planá, Tachov. The Czech part of the route ends in the border town of Bärnau. Jan Hus visited this town and he vividly described this town in his diary.

The pilgrimage from Bohemia to the German border can be divided into two larger parts and each of them can be finished in less than a week. This corresponds to the historical conditions of traveling during the time of Jan Hus. Following the steps of this world-class scholar involves not only a powerful spiritual experience but also a good physical condition of pilgrims. The provisions of Jan Hus Pilgrimage Tour are based on successful community activities with the Hussite past and traditions (www.husitskamesta.net). It also follows the admirable initiative of a group of friends who have followed the footsteps of Jan Hus several times, and even dressed in historical costumes. During the year of Jubilee 2015 (600 years since the burning of Master Jan Hus) they walked to Kostnice. The journey took them more than three weeks (for more information see www.husovapout.cz). A great addition to the route is the possibility to follow the signs of the so-called "Goldene Strasse", which runs from the Czech border to Nuremberg. Here pilgrims can go to Kostnice, which is located on the Swiss border, following the the signs of the most important European pilgrimage network called Camino de Santiago. Main contact: Lenka Křížková, Regionální rozvojová agentura Plzeňského kraje, krizkova@rra-pk.cz Important Web Resources: – Route description in Bohemia: www.husovapout.cz – Route description from the border with Germany to Nürberg: <http://www.goldene-strasse.de/> – Route description from Nürberg to Constance: www.jakobswege-europa.de/wege/nuernberg-konstanz.htm