

LEADERS TO FOLLOW

ILI at Bily Potok

In July, the International Leadership Institute moved to the Czech mountains to teach English.

This sounds a bit more grand than it really was! What happened was that Jarda and Sara were invited to be teachers at a summer camp run by the Prague branch of an international organization that provides programs to university students. The people in the Prague branch have been running this camp for several years, and have established a smoothly-running week-long camp that helps young people improve their English-language skills.

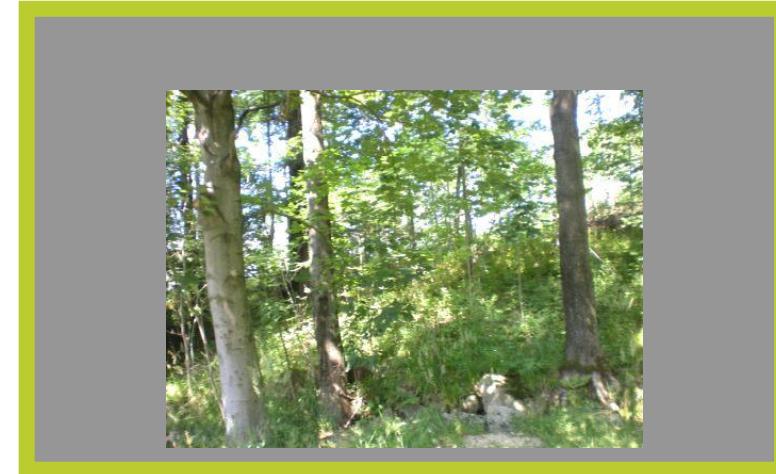


Such summer camps are very popular in the Czech Republic, as they combine two great Czech passions: the outdoors and education. The camp in Bily Potok was great fun!

We were assigned as teachers for the beginners' class, the "Super Intelligents." Here we are with our students, fellow teacher Linda, and Klaus!



Bily Potok (white brook) gave us a chance to get out of the city, make new friends and help our students become more confident and competent English speakers. It was a wonderful way to move to the mountains!



Summer 2011 Programs and Publications

Programs:

- English Camp at Bily Potok
- American English Language Institute: AEI (year-round)
- Essential Prague, 4 Days (year-round)

Blogs:

- <http://ibt-yournextjob.blogspot.com/>
<http://englishinprague.blogspot.com/>
<http://ilileadership.blogspot.com/>
<http://writingwisdom.blogspot.com/>
<http://praguepies.blogspot.com/>

Publications (available at www.ili.cc for free download):

- Leaders to Follow**
Servant Leaders
A Lesson on English
Careers

Summer in the CR: Cottage Life

In summer, Prague empties itself of the people who live here, while it fills itself with tourists and students.

For Czechs, summer means holidays. Most Czechs have a chata or chalupa, a vacation house that can be anything from a small hut without running water or electricity to the family's ancestral farmhouse (reconstructed or not) to a beautiful, newly-built home that rivals anything found anywhere in the world.

So if your Czech friends are going to the "cottage" for the weekend and invite you, go! Take along a spirit of adventure, and you won't be disappointed. You can expect to be offered a variety of sports activities and diversions, including

1. Water sports: kayaking, windsurfing, canoeing, swimming, water skiing.
2. Woods activities: mushroom hunting (as fall sets in), hiking to nearby forest destinations as shrines, castles, restaurants and abandoned farms, mountain biking, and alpine walking.
3. Semi-extreme sports: rock-climbing, hang-gliding, parasailing, and bungee jumping.
4. Working in the garden: Czechs are avid gardeners and have vegetables patches, fruit trees, flower beds, shrubs and nut trees, and green lawns that need care every weekend.

Czechs are passionate about physical activity, so don't imagine that a weekend at the cottage will be a sedentary one! And then, of course, there is the food and drink. For Czechs, no social event takes place without food. In the summer, the garden supplies the fruits and vegetables. Freshly-made bread and cheese are bought locally, from crossroads stores and people's homes. Drinks include homemade wine and slivovice, as well as the expected teas (especially fruit teas), coffee and waters.

And then there is the conversation. Czechs love to debate politics, history, world events, and philosophies of life. The cottage provides a relaxed atmosphere, where you put on your old clothes and make your own agenda. Evenings are spent talking and reminiscing about family and friends. These conversations bind the generations together, as everyone from Great-Grandma and Grandpa to the newest baby sits outside to watch the sun go down and talk freely about past, present and future.

These cottage weekends are precious interludes in busy city lives. They give people the chance to reconnect with what's timeless and pleasant in life, to remember who they are and why they work as hard as they do during the week. What a civilized way to reinvigorate your mind, body and spirit!

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Clouds at Bily Potok