



We will set out from Nový Jičín to the destination of our trip, Pustevny.

Pustevny (Hermitages) rank among frequently visited places; they are an important tourist centre. They are called after hermits who used to live there.

Pustevny dominants are wooden buildings built in folk style by a prominent Slovak architect, Dušan Jurkovič.

They are the National Culture Monuments of Mařenka and Libušín, which were built in 1898 by the members of the tourist club called Pohorská jednota Radhošť (Mountain Union of Radhošť). They were built in Art Nouveau style with rich stylish decoration. Currently there are Maměnka Hotel and Libušín Restaurant situated in the buildings.

One of the other wooden buildings in Pustevny, designed by the architect Dušan Jurkovič, is a little wooden bell tower. It is decorated with coloured ornaments made by František Procházka and Ivan Popov, restorers from Brno. The coloured decoration designed by Jurkovič has not been preserved. Therefore the little bell tower was reconstructed after the original Jurkovič's designs in 1997.

Pustevny are an important junction of hiking trails – a starting point for hikes, or at least walks, along the ridge of Radhošť.

We will get to Pustevny by following hiking trails from many places or by the Pustevny chair lift from Ráztočka in Trojanovice. We can also use the bus service from Rožnov pod Radhoštěm and from Prostřední Bečva (Middle Bečva), or possibly we can also get to Pustevny by car.

On the way from Pustevny to Radhošť you will go past a statue of Radegast – a pagan God of harvest, which has stood here since 1931.

Its author, a native of Frenštát, Albín Polášek, created the statue from concrete and granite rubble. Currently there is a copy of the statue placed at the height of over 1000 m above sea level; the copy, carved from granite and weighing a few tonnes, withstands the local rough weather conditions better. This 3.2 m high statue weighing 1.4 tonnes with a militant appearance has a male body and a lion's face, its head is decorated with a casque in the shape of a bull's head with horns, its right hand is holding a cornucopia and its left hand is holding an axe, it is dressed in a massive belt and an ornamented skirt, and it is wearing Wallachian peasant shoes on its feet.

On the peak of Radhošť (1129 m) there is a pilgrimage chapel, dating back to 1898, and a sculptural group of Cyril and Method. From the top we can see the Vsetín Hills, Javorníky, the Strážovské Hills and the Small Fatra, Jeseníky, Frenštát and Ondřejník, Kněhyně, Smrk and Lysá hora (Bare Mountain). Radhošť is frequently visited by tourists; a lot of hiking trails lead over it.

In winter Pustevny are a popular ski resort with 11 ski-lifts and 9 downhill courses.



## The Trip of Nový Jičín Pustevny

