

# Prague, the City of One Hundred Spires, How You Will Never See It

The phenomenon of Prague spires fascinated more creators again. This time, the capital commissioned virtual panoramic views from a hundred important Prague spires from the company Panoramas.

These views of Prague, which can never be seen since most of the spires are not accessible, they are also unique for the fact, that they show the spire which they were taken from. A digital camera with a wide-angle objective was used to make such panoramic pictures. The data from the camera was then processed in the computer which created real views that might make many people dizzy.



*The Project Prague, The City of One Hundred Towers was launched last year and Prague paid 1, 2 million CZK for it. And I have to say that it is a great promotion for the city, said the deputy mayor Rudolf Blažek, who did not exclude that the city will consider an augmentation of the number of spires. All of the views are to be found at <http://stovezata.praha.eu>.*

Just as when a recent TV series was being shot about spires in Prague, the creators of digital panoramic pictures also encountered some minor technical problems. *For instance on one water-tower, the radiation from the transmitting system erased the content of the memory card in the camera. To our surprise, this did not happen on Žižkovská Tower, as it did to the TV crew, said Jaroslav Hora from the company Panoramas. And organizations owning the spires did not oppose to the project. Most institutions, mainly religion and national considered it a good way of promotion, they even offered some other buildings as well. Sometimes there were problems with access with some private places, yet in the end, even there we managed to create a panoramic view. Only one organization wanted money for its tower being presented on the Internet. The authors of the notes to the tower are Eva and Josef Hrubeš, who are also the authors of a brilliant publication about Prague spires and towers. The notes are also available in an English version.*

The company Panoramas is far from being new to the creation of panoramic views. Other panoramic views can be found at their website [www.virtualtravel.cz](http://www.virtualtravel.cz). *So far, we have had some 1,700 of them and it keeps expanding. These are virtual guided tours of Czech towns, where we go. All this is a non-profit project and it is definitely the biggest one in the Czech Republic, said Jaroslav Hora. Not even ten people worked on the whole project. Viewers might be surprised, that most pictures were taken in very good weather. It is not any computer magic. We simply just waited and waited until the weather was fine. We followed the weather forecast and this is why we managed to get very good light with most of the pictures, said Jaroslav Hora.*