

## Czechia – Guest of Honour at the 2026 Frankfurt Book Fair / Press Conference on the Literary and Cultural Programme and the Guest of Honour Pavilion

Today, the Czech Republic, Guest of Honour at the 2026 Frankfurt Book Fair, presented its **Literary and Cultural Programme** and the **concept for the Guest of Honour Pavilion** at the German National Library in Frankfurt am Main. The theme of the Guest of Honour presentation is: “Czechia: A Country on the Coast.” **Tomáš Kubíček**, Director General of the Moravian Regional Library and Director of the Czech Guest of Honour programme, and **Martin Krafl**, Director of the Czech Literary Center and Programme Director of the Czech Guest of Honour programme, provided information about the Year of Czech Culture and the activities at this year’s Frankfurt Book Fair. **Jindřich Ráftl** and **Jan Tůma** from the architectural firm JinJan and **Jana Hájková**, project manager of Czechia 2026, presented the plans for the Guest of Honour pavilion. Frank Scholze, Director General of the German National Library, as well as Juergen Boos, Director of the Frankfurt Book Fair, and **Kristina Larischová**, Consul-General of the Czech Republic in Dusseldorf, responsible for North Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse, delivered welcoming remarks. This was followed by a discussion with author **Dora Kaprálová**, who won the Magnesia Litera Prize and the European Union Prize for Literature this year.

### The Literary and Culture Programme / the Year of Czech Culture

As part of the Year of Czech Culture, dozens of readings will take place leading up to the Frankfurt Book Fair. At readings in Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Cologne, Munich, and Vienna, attendees can look forward to appearances by **Iva Procházková**, **Miroslav Hlaučo**, **Vratislav Maňák**, **Marek Torčík**, and **Sophia Marzolff**, among others. As this year’s guest country at the texttage.nuernberg from 16 to 19 July, the Czech Republic will be represented by **Jaroslav Rudiš**, **Štěpánka Jislová**, **Anna Řezničková**, **Alžběta Stančáková**, **Jaromír Typlt**, **Jan Laštovička**, and **Vratislav Maňák**. From 29 September to 1 October, the literary festival ‘**Ahoj! Czech Republic Crosses Over**’ in Vienna and Bad Ischl will feature readings by **Radka Denemarková**, **Lucie Faulerová**, **Dora Kaprálová**, **Michal Ajvaz**, **Petr Borkovec**, and others.

In addition to the extensive literary programme at the fair itself, for which **75 authors** will be travelling to Frankfurt, there will be numerous other events taking place in the surrounding area.

On October 10, 2026, for example, the German premiere of works by **Slavomír Hořínska**, **Barbora Tomášková**, and **Pavel Šabacký** will take place at the Alte Oper in Frankfurt am Main in collaboration with the **Ensemble Modern**. At the **Theater International Frankfurt** and during the special edition of the **Drama Panorama festival**, the Czech Republic will showcase contemporary drama. In collaboration with the **arthouse cinemas** in Frankfurt am Main, two film screenings will take place that are thematically linked to Czech literature: ‘Through the Landscape of Literature’ depicts writer Jaroslav Rudiš’s journey across the Czech Republic, while ‘I Vouch for a Word with My Life’ focuses on writer Radka Denemarková. The Czech Guest of Honour is also a partner in the German-language premiere of the **two-part television film ‘Gerta Schnirch’**, which was inspired by Kateřina Tučková’s novel ‘Gerta, the German Girl’ and produced in collaboration with Czech Television ČT, ARTE, and HBO.

This Guest of Honour event will be accompanied by numerous exhibitions at cultural institutions in Frankfurt and the surrounding area: The **SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT** is dedicating an exhibition to the sculptor **Anna Hulačová**. The **Museum of Communication** is presenting ‘Samizdat’, an exploration of the suppression of free expression in Czechoslovakia. The **Klingspor Museum** in Offenbach am Main is hosting the exhibition ‘Czech Book Design and Illustration 1900 to 2025’. The exhibition ‘Beyond Paper Plane’ at the **Struwwelpeter Museum** focuses on extraordinary picture

book art from the Czech Republic. The **German Architecture Museum (DAM)** invites visitors to explore new Czech architecture. The **German National Library** offers a lyrical experience with 'Reiner Kunze and Czech Poetry.' At the **Palmengarten**, visitors can engage with garden utopias in the work of Veronika Richterová. The **Haus am Dom** is featuring dissident literature from the Czech Republic, from Božena Němcová to Radka Denemarková. Contemporary Czech photography can be admired at the **German Film Institute & Film Museum**. And the **Archaeological Museum** is hosting 'The Bronze Beauty from Kladina'.

### The Guest of Honour Pavilion at the Frankfurt Book Fair

**Jindřich Ráftl** and **Jan Tůma** of the architectural firm **JinJan** presented the concept 'Boundaries of Imagination' for the 2,300-square-metre exhibition hall. The Czech Guest of Honour Pavilion is designed to invite visitors into a world of fantasy and literature. Round, inflatable elements of various sizes will structure the space. They are intended to serve as seating and symbolise the diversity of human imagination. The concept is complemented by interactive stations such as 'buoys' and a 'poetic lighthouse', which use AI to bring Czech literature to life. A robot will draw comics live, and an exhibition will showcase Czech illustrations from the past 30 years. At the same time, the Guest of Honour Pavilion prioritises sustainability: lightweight, modular components minimise transport costs, material consumption, and waste.

### The Cultural Partners of the Guest of Honour:

**Frankfurt am Main:** Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Archäologisches Museum, Arthouse-Kinos, Buchhandlung Buch & Wein, Buchhandlung Weltenleser, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum, Dialogmuseum, Ensemble Modern, Festival LiteraturBahnhof, Haus am Dom, Holzhausenschlösschen, Internationales Theater Frankfurt, Kulturzentrum Switchboard, literaTurm, Museum für Kommunikation, Romanfabrik, Schirn Kunsthalle, Stadtbücherei, Struwwelpeter Museum, Union International Club, Zentrale Kinder- und Jugendbibliothek  
**Berlin:** Berlinale, Das blaue Sofa, Haus für Poesie, Internationales Literaturfestival, Literarisches Colloquium, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin; **Bremen:** Festival globale° **Darmstadt:** Deutscher Literaturfonds; **Dresden:** Tschechisch-Deutsche Kulturtag; **Erlangen:** Comic-Salon; **Munich:** Adalbert-Stifter-Verein, Comicfestival, Internationale Jugendbibliothek; **Leipzig:** Literarischer Herbst; **Luzern:** Fumetto Comic Festival; **Neu-Isenburg:** Tschechische Schule ohne Grenzen Rhein-Main; **Nuremberg:** Texttage; **Offenbach:** Klingspor Museum; **Vienna:** Buch Wien, Festival Ahoj! Tschechien setzt über, Kultursommer Wien; **Wiesbaden:** goEast-Filmfestival; **Zofingen:** Literaturtage; **Zürich:** Ahoj Festival; Czech Centres in Vienna, Munich and Berlin; Literature Houses Cologne, Munich and Wiesbaden.

Further information is available in the [press kit](#).

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About the Guest of Honour

The Czech Republic will be the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2026. The event is organized by the Moravian Regional Library in Brno, through its Czech Literature Center. Seventy-five authors across all genres—from fiction and poetry to comics, children's and young adult literature, and nonfiction—will travel to Frankfurt. As part of the Guest of Honour programme, well over 100 new books will be published in German, since the launch of activities in 2024. The Guest of Honour programme is funded by public funds from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and with support from the PPF Foundation. The partner for the Year of Czech Culture and the Guest of Honour programme is the German-Czech Future Fund. The Frankfurt Book Fair, which will take place from 7 to 11 October, 2026, is the world's largest trade fair for the publishing industry. The Guest of Honour presents its literature and culture at the book fair, in the city of Frankfurt, and at many other locations in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The Czech Republic's Guest of Honour appearance is themed 'Czechia: A Country on the Coast'.

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