

towns may host festivals featuring folk music, dancing in traditional costumes, and markets offering crafts and food.

1. Máj as International Workers' Day
Parallel to the celebration of love, May 1st is also International Workers' Day, known as Svátek práce in Czech. Under communist rule (1948–1989), the holiday was heavily politicized, marked by organized parades, speeches, and celebrations of labor achievements. While its political connotations have faded, May 1st still remains a public holiday in the Czech Republic, giving people an opportunity to enjoy the day off and celebrate in their own ways.

How Czechs Celebrate Today

Modern Czechs celebrate 1. Máj as a mix of old and new traditions:
Romantic Outings: Couples visit parks, cherry orchards, or scenic spots like Petřín Hill for walks and quiet moments together.

Tributes to Karel Hynek Mácha:

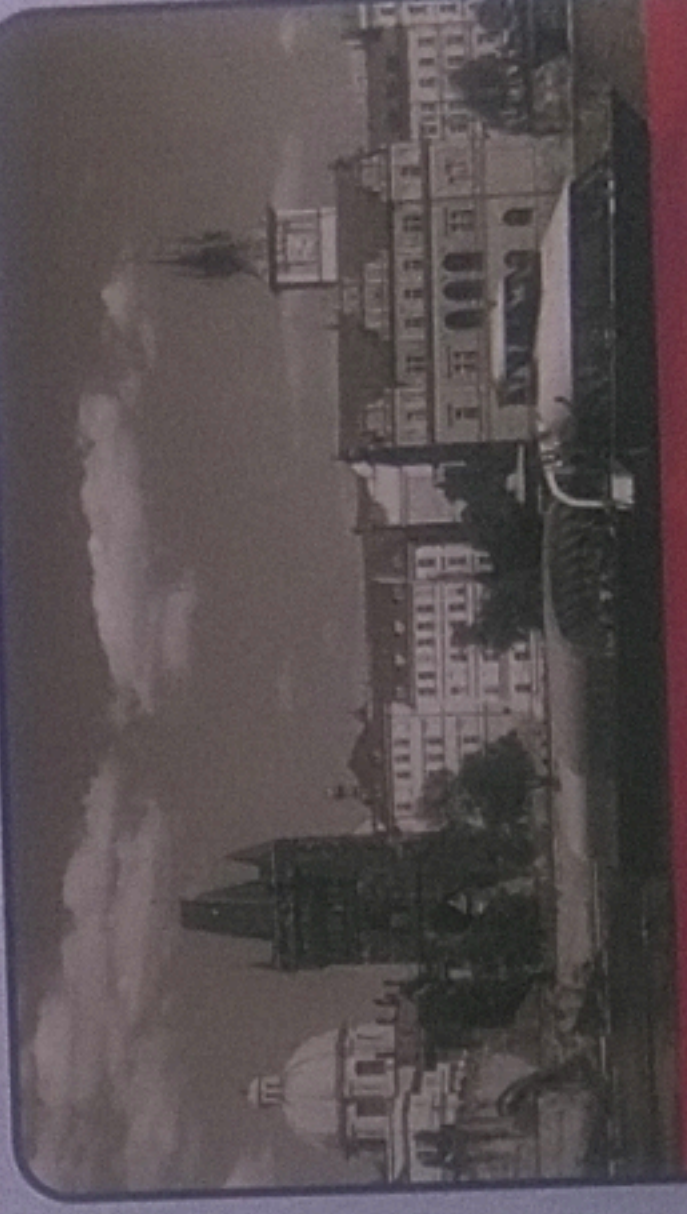
Flowers are often laid at Mácha's statue, especially in Prague.

Family Gatherings and Picnics: Families and friends enjoy the spring weather with picnics, barbecues, and time outdoors.
Cultural Events: Cities and towns may host concerts, open-air performances, and festivals celebrating the season of love and renewal.

Conclusion

For Czechs, 1. Máj is more than just another public holiday. It's a beautiful celebration of love, nature, and the poetic spirit of spring. Whether you're kissing under a blossoming cherry tree, wandering through Prague's gardens, or honoring the legacy of Karel Hynek Mácha, May 1st is a day to slow down, appreciate beauty, and celebrate the timeless themes of life and love.

So if you're in the Czech Republic this spring, don't miss the chance to experience this charming tradition. Find a cherry tree, admire the blossoms, and as Czechs say: "Láska kvete v máji" (Love blooms in May).



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