



Candidate for the World Heritage Committee
for 2025–2029

Czechia

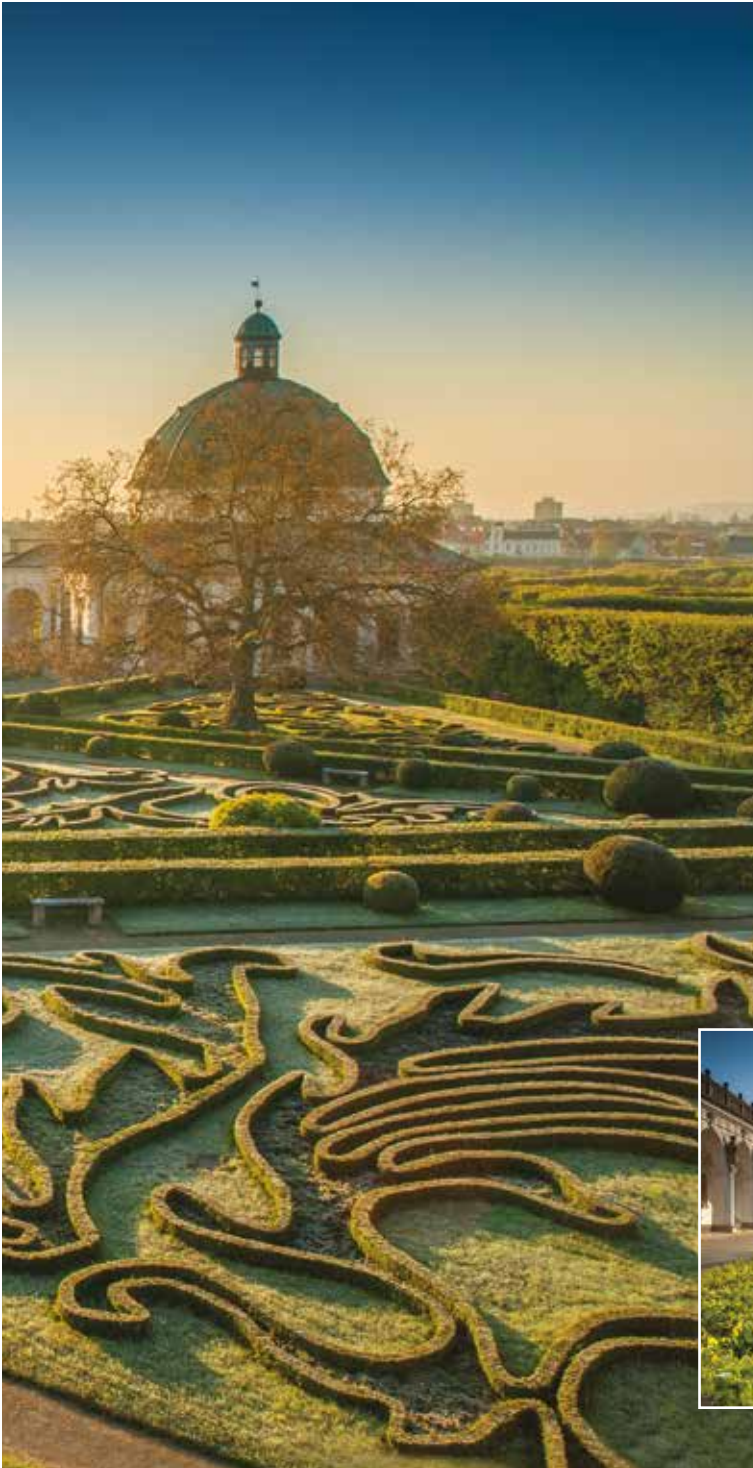


Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
CZECH REPUBLIC

Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



Czechia, as a State Party to the 1972 Convention since 1993, is seeking its first World Heritage Committee mandate for **2025–2029**. The elections will be held during the 25th General Assembly of the State Parties in November 2025. **Czechia**

- **actively strives** for respect for cultural diversity and an integrated approach to natural and cultural heritage,
- **acknowledges** the Convention's focus on the intricate relationship between people and nature by recognizing heritage as both cultural and natural, emphasizing the vital need to maintain a harmonious balance between them. Moreover, the World Heritage List is thus perceived as a testament to the richness and diversity of the Earth's cultural and natural treasures,
- **proudly serves** as an active state party to the Convention in order to pass on our shared heritage to the future generations.





If elected, Czechia will

- promote the **principles and rules of the 1972 Convention** and its Operational Guidelines, and the **Rules of Procedure**,
- be guided during its mandate by the core Strategic Objectives known as the **“Five Cs”** (Credibility, Conservation, Capacity building, Communication, Communities),
- support the mechanisms to achieve a **balanced and credible World Heritage List** as well as the strategy for improving capacity-building activities, including the **update of the Gap Analysis**,
- support **collaboration and activities of the Advisory Bodies** to improve tools for assessing heritage impacts and disaster risk management under the Convention.



If elected, Czechia will

- support **long-term, immersive training programmes** dedicated to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage,
- leverage a **network of experts and site managers**, fostering the exchange of best practices, enhancing collaboration, and promoting the sharing of experience to strengthen heritage preservation,
- address shared concerns such as **climate change impacts**, better site **presentation**, the balance between **conservation and development**, **sustainable tourism**, **digital tools** for conservation improvement,
- assist in strengthening **capacity-building for impact assessments** and **share best practices**,
- foster **synergies among UNESCO Culture Conventions** in Periodic Reporting and terminology.

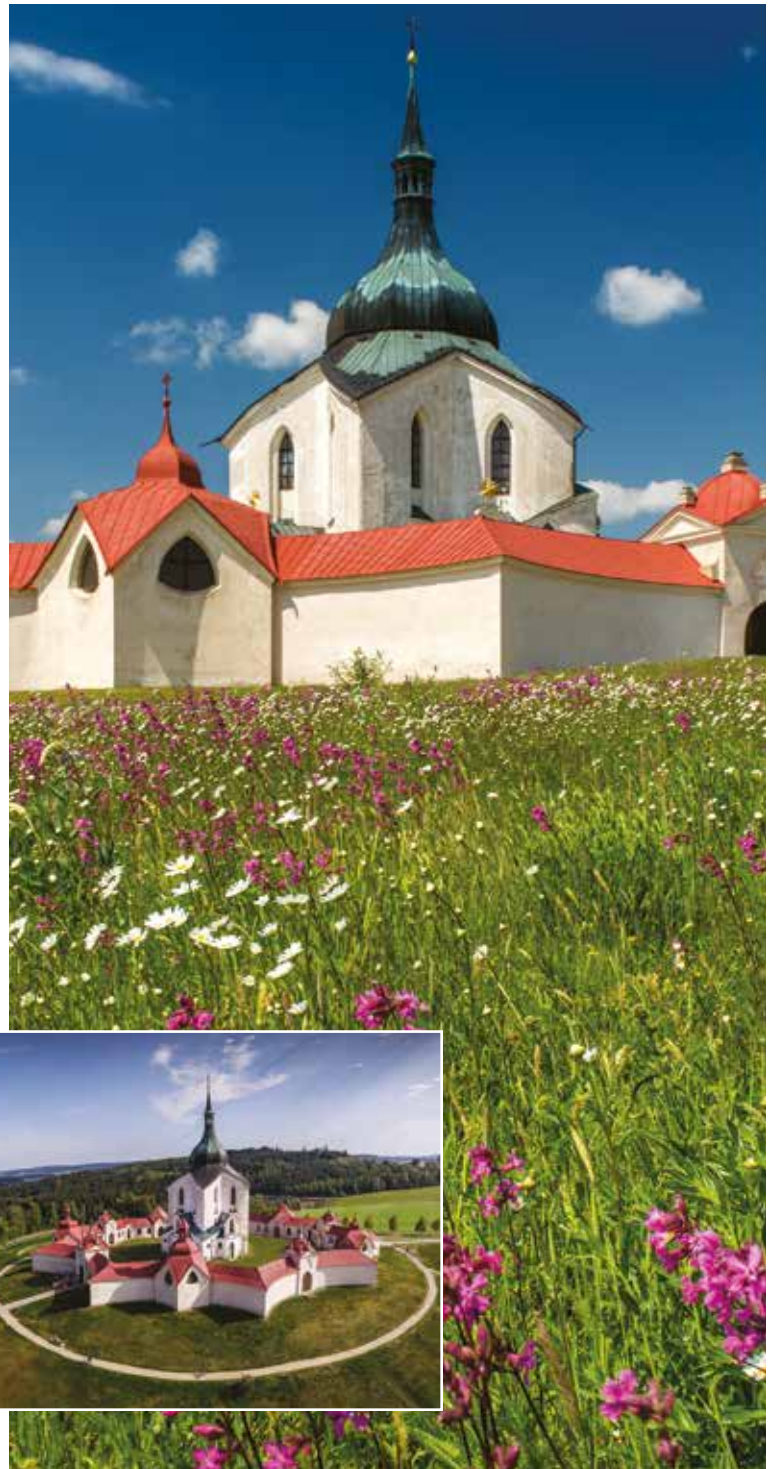
National capacities and extensive experience

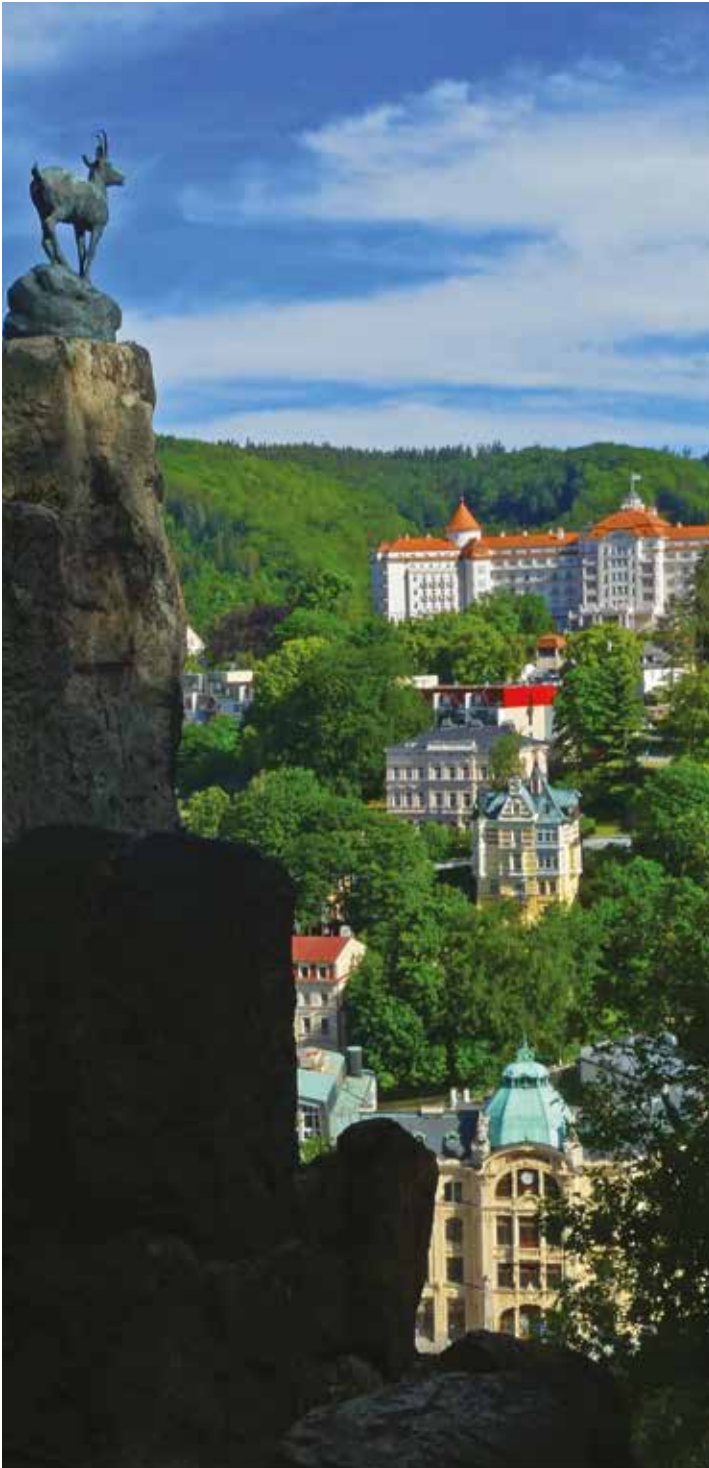
Czechia, renowned for its longstanding tradition of protecting its cultural and natural heritage, **has extensive experience with the Convention and its implementation**, as demonstrated by its **17 World Heritage sites**, including **three transnational properties**.

In **Czechia**, there are more than **600 protected culture heritage areas**, i.e. **297 heritage cities and towns**, **277 heritage villages**, **28 cultural landscapes** and **14 other protected heritage areas**.

Czechia legally protects more than 39 thousand immovable cultural properties and almost 49 thousand movable registered cultural heritage assets.

Czechia boasts **27 protected landscape areas** and **4 national parks**, collectively covering nearly **16% of its territory**. In addition, the country is home to an extensive network of smaller “specially protected areas,” including **109 National Nature Reserves**, **126 National Nature Monuments**, **823 Nature Reserves**, and **1,622 Nature Monuments**, spread throughout the country.





International Cooperation in the field of Heritage Conservation

State heritage conservation and historic preservation authorities, both at the institutional and individual levels, **actively participate in numerous international initiatives and formal platforms**, contributing their expertise and fostering global collaboration.

Czechia is active

- in facilitation of cooperation and international dialogue, enabled by the **presence of three transnational World Heritage properties**, which serve as platforms for shared management, joint initiatives, and strengthened cross-border relationships,
- in several **ICOMOS International Scientific Committees**, participating in regular expertise in desk reviews and technical evaluation missions,
- in the **restoration of destroyed monuments** (e.g. restoration of artefacts from Syria),
- as a participant of the annual **V4 Heritage Academy summer school** primarily focused on World Heritage Sites,
- in the **European Heritage Label** scheme, that is also focused on exceptional heritage by membership of the EHL Panel for awarding, assessment and monitoring of sites,
- in **Europa Nostra** with its Czech Association of Castle and Chateau Owners.



International Cooperation in Biological Diversity Conservation

The State Nature Conservancy authorities are engaged in vital international efforts to protect our planet's biodiversity. They embody a commitment to implementing EU nature conservation legislation and upholding various Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, Bern Convention, CITES, Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, Carpathian Convention, Council of Europe Landscape Convention and many more.

Together, these initiatives inspire a collective journey toward a sustainable future.

Czechia is an internationally well-connected and respected partner!



Sharing of experience in natural/cultural heritage protection, conservation and promotion

Czechia has an extensive background of academic, research and professional institutions **actively engaged in heritage preservation and nature conservation.**

Key projects in the field of **World Heritage:**

- **Training programme for Iraqi conservationists** from the Iraqi Institute for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage (IICAH) in **Erbil** (2019, 2021),
- **Restoration of valuable artefacts** from archaeological sites in **Syria** in cooperation with the General Directorate of Syrian Monuments and Museums (2017–2022),
- **“The Arc” Project**, a mobile conservation unit for preserving the printed cultural heritage of **Ukraine**,
- **Membership** of the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the **Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.**

Czech institutions and experts **actively collaborate with partners worldwide to enhance efforts in nature conservation and landscape protection**, fostering a global exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Their involvement is particularly evident in the following projects:

- **Tusheti Protected Landscape, Georgia** (2012–2013),
- **Aragvi Protected Landscape, Georgia** (2018–2022),
- **Biodiversity Protection in Armenia** (2021–2023),
- **Eco-Tourism in Zambia,**
- **Northern White Rhino in Kenya,**
- **LIFE Project in Ukraine** (since March 2024).

These initiatives underscore our commitment to fostering international collaboration in biodiversity protection.







FRANTIŠEK PELC

DIRECTOR OF THE
NATURE CONSERVATION
AGENCY OF THE CZECH
REPUBLIC

*Long-term specialization
in the protection of
biodiversity, the coexistence
of the system of nature
protected areas and
regional development
and the support of
biodiversity protection
on an international scale,
especially in Africa.*



MARTIN HORÁČEK

ICOMOS CZECH
NATIONAL COMMITTEE
PRESIDENT

*Focus on architectural his-
tory, heritage conservation,
historiography and theory
of art, and cultural land-
scapes. Associate professor
at universities in Czechia,
visiting professor in Thailand.
Member of two internatio-
nal scientific committees of
ICOMOS and the European
Quality Principles Working
Group. Member of the
European Heritage Label
Panel.*



VĚRA KUČOVÁ

NATIONAL HERITAGE
INSTITUTE

*Extensive experience with
UNESCO World Heritage
Committee processes and
decisions. Coordinator for
Czechia's WH nominations
since 2000. Over 40 years
in heritage conservation,
with expertise in cultural
landscapes and village and
town conservation. Chair
of the Section for Culture
and Communication,
Czech Commission for
UNESCO. Member of the
ICOMOS Czech National
Committee.*



JAN PLESNÍK

NATURE CONSERVATION
AGENCY OF THE CZECH
REPUBLIC

*Long-term expertise and
active engagement in
environmental protection.
Adviser to the Director,
Czech Nature Conservation
Agency and a former
head of the Czech IUCN
Coordination Unit. Vice-
Chair of SBSTTA-CBD,
National Coordinator for
the Czech component of
Ancient and Primeval Beech
Forests inscribed on the
World Heritage List and
a Member of the Czech
UNESCO Man & Biosphere
Programme Committee.*

**Our delegates and experts are prepared to share experience acquired
in the preservation and management of World Heritage sites with
other States Parties to the Convention.**



Our long-standing priorities are

- to enhance the **capacity of all stakeholders** involved in World Heritage through the implementation of a robust **capacity-building strategy**,
- to promote the importance of **national monitoring** based on both general periodic reporting results and daily experience of communities and site managers,
- to promote the **role and recognition of site managers** as key contributors to heritage preservation and management **in the spirit of the George Town Declaration**,
- to contribute to the improvement of procedural efficiency by **streamlining the nomination process to ensure clarity and accessibility**,
- to support the implementation of a **Preliminary Assessment** to ensure a seamless and transparent evaluation process.





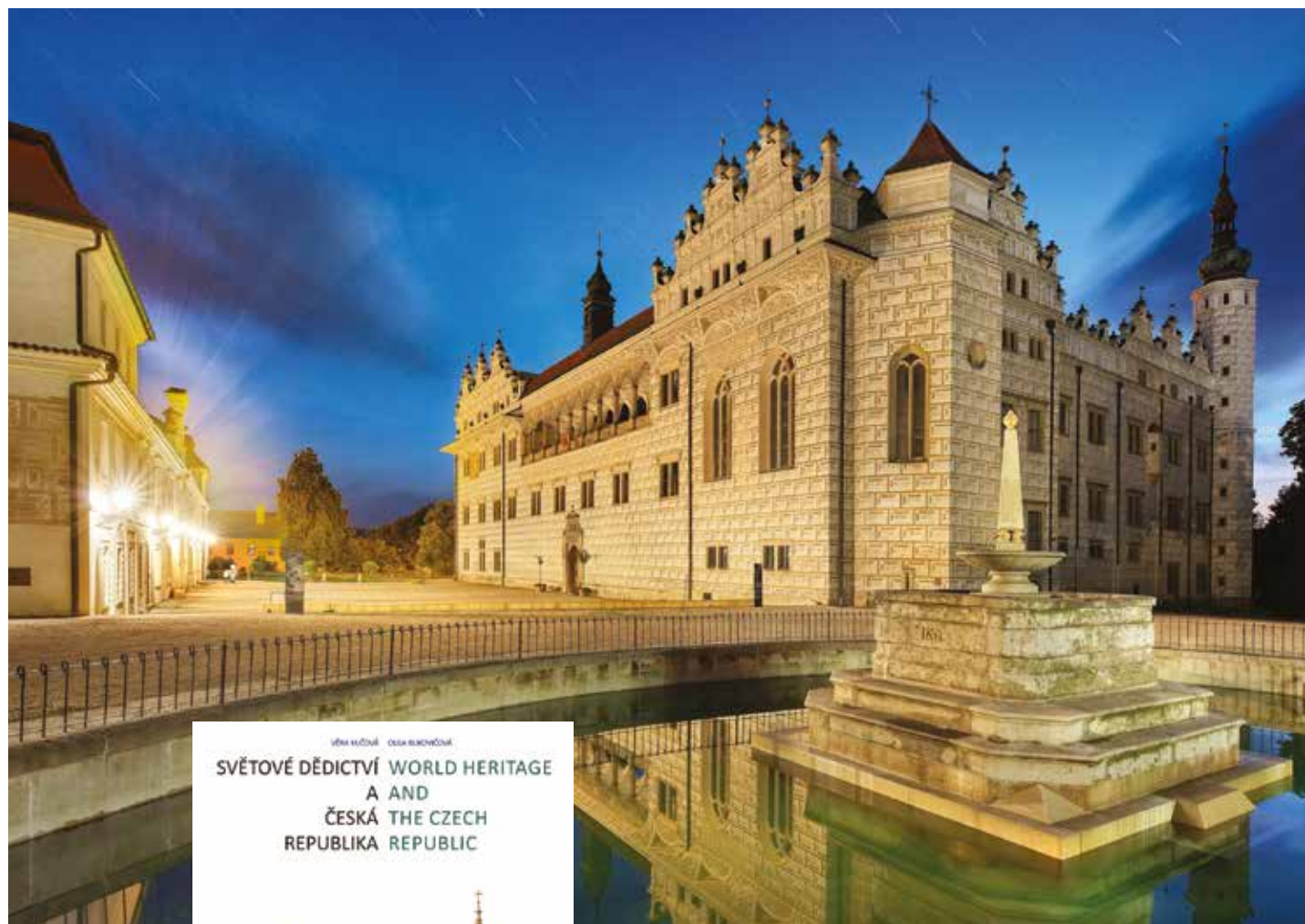
If elected, **Czechia** will commit to a **4-year term of office** and, in the spirit of contributing to the impartiality and objectivity of decision-making, **will refrain from examining its own national nominations during its mandate.**

Do not hesitate to contact us:



31, rue Francois Bonvin
75 015 Paris
Bureaux M.8.09 - M.8.11
+ 33 1 45 68 25 99
dl.czech-republic@unesco-delegations.org





veřejná kulturní objekty
SVĚTOVÉ DĚDICTVÍ WORLD HERITAGE
A AND
ČESKÁ THE CZECH
REPUBLIKA REPUBLIC



Photographs

Mariánské Lázně © Ladislav Renner CzechTourism

Pleasure Garden in Kroměříž © Aleš Motejl CzechTourism

Pleasure Garden in Kroměříž © Aleš Motejl CzechTourism

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Kladruby nad Labem © National Stud Kladruby nad Labem

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Holašovice Historic Village © Aleš Motejl CzechTourism

The City of Prague © Peter Čech CzechTourism



A panoramic view of Prague at sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper right, casting a warm, golden light across the sky and the city. In the foreground, a lush green park with many trees, some in bloom, stretches across the bottom. The middle ground is filled with the dense, historic architecture of Prague, including the prominent Prague Castle with its multiple spires on the left and the Old Town Square with its various buildings and churches in the center. The background shows a hazy view of the city's outskirts and distant hills.

Czechia: A Heart Beating for the World Heritage