

# Prague botanical garden

**Fata Morgana**– the Prague Botanical garden's new greenhouse, stretches 130 meters (429 feet) in a gentle S-curve, an eye-catching addition to a residential Troja neighborhood. The immense construction project looks as if it would take a toll on the surrounding terrain. But in fact the greenhouse has incorporated the features of the landscape: Under the long half-cylinder of metal and transparent plastic lies the natural cliff face of a Prague hillside.

In just over a year, that local stone will be turned into a habitat for some 5,000 species of plants and a showpiece for the garden, expected to draw visitors from the Czech Republic and abroad.

The greenhouse, whose name means mirage in Italian, combines ambitious elements into a design that is unique in the Czech Republic and has few equals in the world. Not only does the building incorporate a natural cliff into its structure as the main exhibition space, but it also contains three separate sections that will simulate three climate zones, including a rare cool tropical highland.

Officials of the Prague Botanical Garden have been working to make the new greenhouse a reality for nearly seven years. They recently announced that construction would end in late May and that they expect to open Fata Morgana to the public next summer.

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