

IDEAS FOR SIGHTSEEING IN PRAGUE AND OUTSKIRT

GRAND CITY TOUR OF PRAGUE (4 hrs)



During the grand sightseeing tour, you will be given all the basic information about Golden Prague's historic monuments. A car will take you past the State Opera, the National Museum and Wenceslas Square. Then you will continue through Charles Square to the banks of the Vltava River and across the river to Prague Castle. There a walk around the Castle courtyards . Our guide will take you on a tour of Prague Castle interior – the Royal Palace, St. Vitus Cathedral and Golden Lane, acquainting you with all the important historical details of the Castle. You will then go through the Lesser Town to Charles Bridge where the walking tour ends.

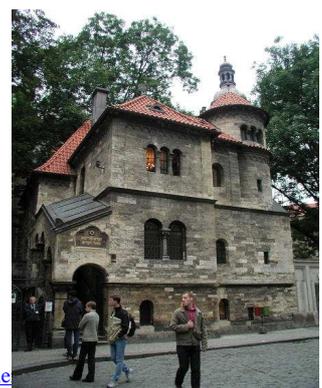
The car will then take you across the Vltava to the Old Town. You will find St. Nicholas church, the Týn Cathedral and the Old Town Hall with its astronomical clock (HORLOGE) and apostles there. Here, not far from the modern city centre, the tour ends.

PRAGUE ON FOOT (4 hrs)

We will show you the historic centre of the capital. From the Powder Tower we will walk along the Royal Route to the Old Town Square. Our walk will continue along Karlova Street to Charles Bridge. From here we can offer you a magical view of Prague Castle. We will finish on the Lesser Town near St. Nicolas Church.

WALKING TOUR OF THE JEWISH QUARTER (4 hrs)

A trip through Jewish history. During this walking tour you will see the only Central European Jewish Town-Quarter that survived the holocaust. You will stroll through the Old Jewish Cemetery and visit some synagogues including the Old New Synagogue. You will then walk through Maiselova Street and reach the Old Town Square where your trip to the past ends.



GLASS MANUFACTORY Rückl Crystal + CASTLE KARLŠTEJN (6 hrs)



Tour of the glassworks with a professional explanation of the operations. During the excursion the visitors will get to know the individual stages of producing glass crystal by hand, i.e. the furnaces, processing, designing and polishing. Everyone will receive a small present at the end. The excursion takes approximately 45 minutes. (cca 25 km out of Prague)

The tour continues to Karlštejn castle, as described later.

KUTNA HORA (5 hrs)



Kutná Hora is an old mining town founded in the 13th century, which was once famous for its silver mines. Visit the gothic St. Barbara Cathedral with its valuable murals and the former royal mint which once coined Prague groschen. To this day Kutná Hora has retained the character of a medieval city and rightly belongs to the most important UNESCO heritage sites in the Czech Republic. You will also visit a unique Ossuary.

CESKY KRUMLOV (9 hrs)



On this all-day excursion you will have a chance to admire the beautiful south Bohemian countryside, with its picturesque villages and many ponds. Český Krumlov is a city on the UNESCO heritage list. The unique urban complex, comprising three hundred historic houses and the National Castle and Chateau, the second largest after Prague Castle, draws many visitors every year and is rightly called the Renaissance pearl.

WINE TASTING AT CASTLE MĚLNÍK (5 hrs)



The Vineyards of Melnik lies approximately 35 km north of Prague. The Mělník branch of the Lobkowicz family began winemaking in 1753 and introduced production of the first-ever méthode champenoise sparkling wine in the country called Château Mělník. The tour includes visit of the castle and Winetasting including a tour of the cellar with guide.

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KARLSTEJN AND KONOPISTE CASTLE (8 hrs)

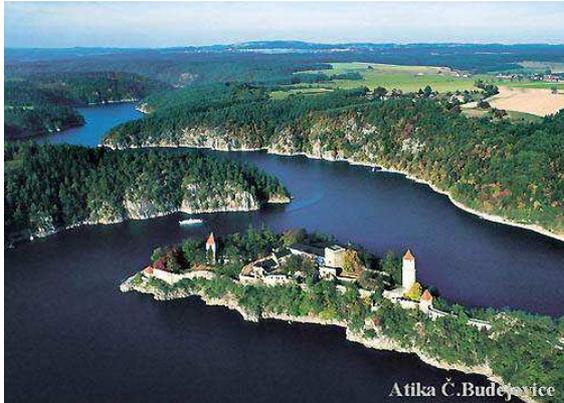


Visit of the Karlstejn Castle which was built in the 14th century by the Czech King and Roman Emperor, Charles IV. At the time, the castle held the treasure of the Holy Roman Empire, including the imperial coronation jewels. We would like to point out that this excursion is physically more demanding. The Castle features rich stucco decorations and unique collections of weapons.



Then continue to Konopiste Chateau, built in the 13th century and later rebuilt. The Chateau was the property of the successor to the Austrian throne, Frantisek Ferdinand d'Este, prior to the First World War. You will have a chance to see representative areas of the Chateau's interior, which document his life there, his craze for hounting, as well as many valuable works of art.

ZVÍKOV AND ORLÍK CASTLE (10 hrs)



The hill towering over the joining of the Vltava and Otava rivers had been considered a suitable place for new settlements since the prehistoric times. It was there that a castle was founded by King Wenceslas I in 1234. Although the castle was repaired, and in 1648 was ready to face the attacks of the Swedes, it began to dilapidate in subsequent years in the hands of the Eggenbergs and the Schwarzenbergs. Only in the first half of the 19th century were the roof of the chapel and the castle towers repaired. Between 1881 and 1885 more extensive restoration works were done, thanks to the owner, Karel Schwarzenberg, from the Orlický family branch.



The castle ORLÍK was established around the middle of the 13th century. At first it consisted of a rather small palace protected from the access side by walls and three defensive towers. The fire which destroyed Orlický in 1508 and the subsequent emancipation of the castle brought about an extensive late Gothic reconstruction. Just before 1588 the Italian master, Augustin performed a Renaissance adaptation of the castle. The importance of Orlický was strengthened considerably at the beginning of the 19th century when Count Karl Schwarzenberg chose it as his residence. (His descendant is the present owner of the castle.)

WINE TASTING AT CASTLE MĚLNÍK AND VISIT OF NELAHOZEVES (8 hrs)

The tour includes visit of the Mělník castle and Winetasting including a tour of the cellar with guide, as already mentioned above.



After Mělník, the tour continues to Nelahozeves. The collection in the castle consist above all of an exceptionally rich picture gallery with works of famous European masters such as Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Canaletto, Velasquez, Rubens and Veronese and with one of the largest collections of Spanish portraits from the 16th and 17th centuries outside of Spain. Apart from furniture (e.g. exquisite pieces from 16th to 18th century) it is also possible to see in the castle rooms Medieval reliquaries and other religious objects, superb ceramic, objects of virtue, original musical

instruments and scores by Beethoven and Mozart.

In Nelahozeves, also the birth house and museum of Antonín Dvořák, one of the most famous Czech composers, can be visited.

CASTLE NELAHOZEVES (5 hrs)



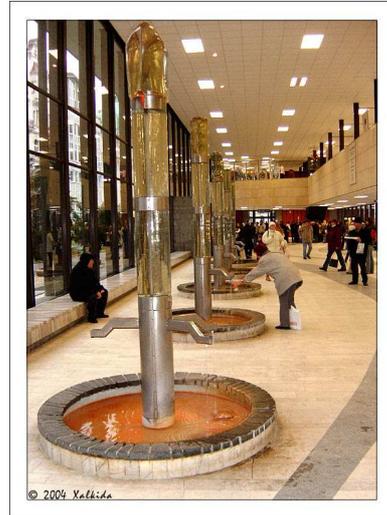
The monumental castle of Nelahozeves, one of Bohemia's finest Renaissance castles, is located in a small village of the same name, approximately 15 miles north of Prague on the Vltava (Moldau) river, known also as the birthplace of the great Czech composer, Antonín Dvořák

The castle was returned to the Lobkowitz family in 1993 and a temporary exhibition was immediately opened. From 1997-2007, a permanent exhibition (Six Centuries of European Art Patronage) featured some of the most significant private art in Europe. From 2007, when elements of the collections were transferred to the family's Lobkowitz Palace in Prague Castle for public display, Nelahozeves was re-installed with historical period rooms depicting the lifestyle and objects with which different Lobkowitz Princes and Princesses lived through the centuries – in a permanent exhibition entitled "Private Spaces: A Noble Family at Home."

The Antonín Dvořák birthhouse in Nelahozeves (a small village just north of Prague) is a Dvorak family tavern and butcher shop where the famous Czech composer was born in 1841. The house was returned to the Lobkowitz family in 1993 under the restitution laws and today the house is

open for the public. The National Museum currently operates an exhibition there, but a future renovation and improvement program has been initiated and preliminary plans are already underway.

K ARLOVY VARY (10 hrs)



The world famous spa city of Carlsbad lying in a picturesque, forested valley is famous for its 12 thermal springs. First you will visit the glass exhibition at the MOSER factory. Then, as you stroll through the city along the spa colonnades, you will have the chance to try not only the mineral springs, but also the delicious local wafers and the traditional herbal Becherovka liqueur.

TEREZÍN (6 hrs)



An excursion to the places where Nazi occupation during the Second World War resulted in the most tragic chapter in the history of not only one town, but also the catastrophic fate of many thousands of innocent victims. Our guide will show you around the entire complex of the former nazi concentration camp with narration including authentic personal memories, chilling experiences and episodes from Terezin's grim history. The tour includes Small fortress, Ghetto museum and Magdeburg Brarracks.

TEREZÍN AND LIDICE (8 hrs)



The intention of Lidice Memorial is to take care of permanent preservation of the remembrance of the town of Lidice and the suffering of its residents who in 10.6.1942 became the victims of Nazi violence and to keep the name of the Lidice village as the world's symbol of all victims of war crimes.

PLZEŇ AND THE BREWERY (6 hrs)



By touring the Pilsen brewery you will learn about the unique brewing process for Pilsner Urquell, the only original of Pilsner type beer. Your first stop will be in the modern Visitors' Centre, which is dominated by a model of the brewery from the previous centre. Here we show a short film on the history of Plzensky Prazdroj.

During the tour you will visit the authentic places where Pilsner Urquell has been produced from the beginning. You will go through the heart of the brewery, the brew

house, by a labyrinth of storage cellars which have retained the traditional methods for producing beer. The tour is combined with a tasting of unfiltered Pilsner Urquell beer in the original cellars.

ČESKÝ ŠTERNBERK (5 hrs)



For more than 760 years now, the castle ČESKÝ ŠTERNBERK, set on the steep stony bank of the Sázava, has dominated the landscape around the central reaches of the river. Called the "Pearl of Posázaví" by a romantic poet [Posázaví is the region around the river], the castle was built in 1241 by Zdeslav of Divišov, and given the name "Šternberk" according to the custom of the day. The family's new aristocratic particle, of Sternberg [Šternberk is the Czech spelling of

the same name, meaning star-castle], dates from same period, along with its coat of arms bearing an eight-pointed star.

One quite remarkable and certainly unique aspect of Český Šternberk is that the castle belongs now to a descendant of the man who first had it built, Zdeslav of Sternberg.

The Early Gothic medieval castle is concealed within the core of the structure that stands today, the product of several different periods of reconstruction. The architecture underwent a series of changes, from the Late Gothic reconstruction work improving the fortifications, through to the extravagant Early Baroque remodeling of the interiors, done convert it into a comfortable residency.

KŘIVOKLÁT (5 hrs)

The castle of Křivoklát belongs to the oldest and most important castles of the Czech princes and kings. The history of its construction starts in the 12th century.

During the reign of Přemysl Otakar II. a large, monumental royal castle was built to be later rebuilt by king Václav IV. and even later generously enlarged by king Vladislav of Jagellon.

The castle of Křivoklát was seriously damaged by fire several times. It became a feared prison and its importance sank rapidly. First during the Romantic époque of the 19th century (when under rule of the family of Fürstenberg that owned the castle until 1929) the castle was reconstructed - and saved.



See a beautiful castle chapel, the Great Royal and Chivalric Halls with an exhibition of Gothic paintings and sculptures, the castle library containing over 52.000 bands, a rich museum and a painting gallery of the Fürstenberg, a famous castle prison with torture chambers and torture instruments, a monumental tower with a collection of hunting trophies and a view of the surrounding area, a pleasant walk around the castle walls, the tower Huderka with an open-hearth kitchen and an observatory gallery, the seat of the captain with temporary exhibitions...all of this and much more belongs to Křivoklát, a national cultural monument.