

Tchequie TOUR



ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ECOLOGY, FIELD AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

1. SORTING, RECYCLING AND INCINERATION OF WASTE

Prague, duration 4 hours, The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter

A. Excursion in a sorting center of paper and a waste dump in Prague, presentation on the sorting of waste in the Czech Republic and on the theme of recycling, on the **system of containers for selective sorting** (plastic, glass, paper, drink cartons, electrical waste, organic waste, unsorted waste) and the **system of waste collection centers** (large waste, dangerous items, tires etc), visit of the chain of sorting paper, the treatment of waste.

Visit duration 1-2 h, depending on the size of the group.

B. Excursion in a waste incinerator in Prague 10 - Installation of the equipment for waste-transferring energy, **one of the largest facilities of its kind** in the Czech Republic. Visit of the institution with a presentation, a garbage collection, a demonstration of the tongs or boilers used in combustion, a presentation on the return of raw materials to production, **the production of heat (steam) and electricity**, landfills for the residual waste.

Duration max. 2 h.

OPTIONAL / IN ADDITION

Possibility to organise a tour to visit **municipal landfills**, a metallurgical plant with recycling of precious metals, **recycling of batteries, plastics and PET bottles** etc. on request.



WASTE, LANDFILLS, HOUSEHOLD TRASH

LANDSCAPE AND NATURE PROTECTION

2. NATIONAL PARKS, NATURE RESERVES, NATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL AREAS

A. THE NATIONAL PARK OF THE MOUNTAIN MASSIF ŠUMAVA AND AN ORNITHOLOGICAL AREA OF PONDS VRBENSKÉ RYBNÍKY

180 km from Prague, duration 11 hours, The excursion includes services of guide/interpreter

I. The Šumava National Park, the largest national park in the Czech Republic and a large wooded mountain massif, sometimes called the **«green» roof of Europe**. The National Park is characterised by its **mysterious peatlands, its glacial lakes, its deep forests and its multi-coloured prairies**. Protected species include, for example, **the grouse** - Capercaillie, Black and Hazel Grouse, as well as the Three-Toed Woodpecker, the Ural Owl, or the **Northern Lynx**, and the Elk.



The excursion in the national park includes a visit to the information center with a projection of a film on the national park or a visit to a paddock for a game, a field visit of one of the swamps with a **local specialist** and a presentation on the phenomenon of peatlands, and a short walk in the **forest wilderness** of Boubín toward a small forest lake.

Duration 3 h. Physical requirements low, between 2 and 4 km depending on the route and peatlands chosen.

II. On the return path, passing around the dam of Lipno and stopping in the **ornithological area of ponds Českobudějovické rybníky – the Natural Reserve of ponds Vrbenské rybníky**, a remarkable group of ponds in close proximity to a city-dormitory of the capital of the South Bohemia, an important ornithological site with a colony of **white-fronted gulls or herons**, nests of **graylag geese**, several species of ducks and grebes, and **rare species of waders**.

The excursion includes a meeting with local ornithologists, a short walk along the dykes, a presentation on the utilisation of municipal ponds, on the protection, the presence and the life of different species of birds, and the possibility to observe them by a telescope on a tripod.

Duration 1-2h. Physical requirements low - plain terrain walk.



BIODIVERSITY



B. BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND NATIONAL PARK

125 km from Prague, duration 10 hours, The excursion includes services of guide/interpreter

The Bohemian Switzerland National Park, a unique landscape formed of sandstone of the Elbe - sandstone formations, **ledges, canyons, sandstone towers, table rocks, cliffs, bridges and labyrinths**, with its typical wildlife. The symbol of the National Park is its «door of entry,» Pravčická brána, the largest natural rock bridge in Europe, of a height of 16 m. Among the animal species known in the region are the wild cat, the peregrine falcon and the black stork.

The tour includes a stop in the picturesque small town of Hřensko, known for its location between the rock towers and for its half-timbered houses, a passage with a local guide on the rocky bridge Pravčická brána, right of entry inclusive (4 km walk round-trip), and then the rocky gorges and a boat trip on the Kamenice River about 1 km (walk approximately 5 km), a discovery trail, presentation of the national park, and the protection of the landscape.

Physical requirements relatively high. A total of 9 km.

OPTIONAL / IN ADDITION

Possibility to organise an excursion in the rock formations Adršpašsko-teplické skály, the National Parks of the Giant Mountains and Podyjí - Valley of the Dyje / Thaya, the reserve of mud volcanoes, peatlands and mineral sources SOOS, the ornithological park Josefovské louky, among others



C. PROTECTED NATURAL AREA OF THE BOHEMIAN PARADISE

90 km from Prague, duration 8 hours, The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter

The Protected Natural Area of the Bohemian Paradise, wide geopark and at the same time picturesque region with romantic castles, popular wooden architecture, **cities of sandstone and other geological phenomena**.

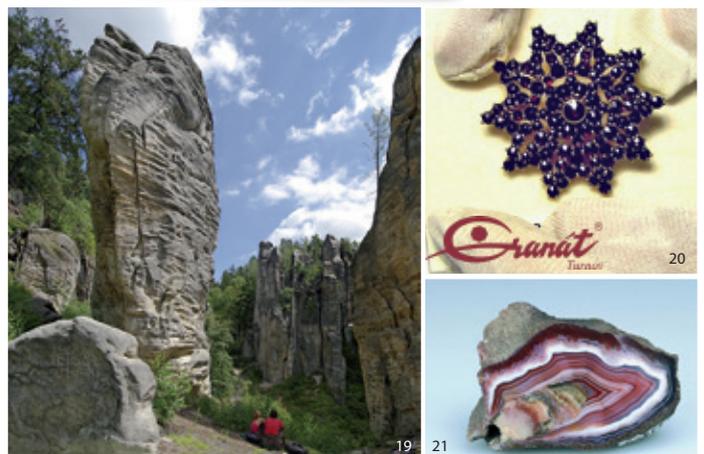
The region counts among its major attractions an eruptive volcano and the ruins of Trosky Castle with its towers nicknamed the Virgin and the Old Woman. The City of Turnov is famous for the production of **jewellery in garnet and for its exceptional exhibition of precious and semi-precious stones**. Nová Paka houses the treasury of precious stones with an exhibition of **prehistoric trees, fossils**, as well as an exposure of **minerals with giant geodes, precious jaspers and agates**.

The tour includes a stop in the town of Turnov, a demonstration of the manufacture of jewellery in garnet from Granát Turnov, an exhibition of **precious and semi-precious stones** at the Museum of the Bohemian Paradise, a field visit with a geologist at Mount Kozákov, a presentation on the theme of the geology and mineralogy, **the visit of a quarry and the opportunity to find your own colour stone**. Also includes a tour of the main attractions and a short walk in the rocky city.

Physical requirements low, between 3-4 km depending on the route.

OPTIONAL / IN ADDITION

It is possible to follow an **alternate circuit** of 8h - a hike of 2 hours based on the towers and rocky labyrinths - rock town Prachovské skály with a tour of the main attractions - Castles of Trosky, Humprecht, Hrubá Skála, a stop in the historic city of Jičín and the exceptional exhibition of semi-precious stones and petrified - fossilized trees – in the Treasury of Nová Paka.



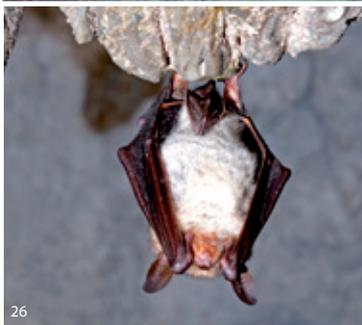
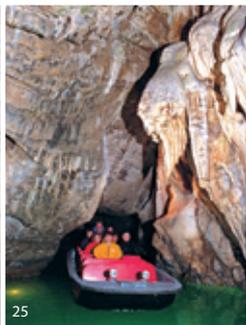
ROCKY LABYRINTHS, PITS AND KARSTS

D. PROTECTED NATURAL AREA - MORAVIAN KARST

232 km from Prague, duration 12 hours, The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter

The Protected Natural Area - the Moravian Karst, the largest karst region of the Czech Republic is formed mainly of limestone rock from the Devonian and Karst plateaus typical with sinkholes, deep gorges and ravines, losses and resurgences of courses of water, gorges and caves with concretions. The area has 1100 caves, and 4 networks of caves are accessible to the public. Typical Karst flora and fauna are present and interestingly, 21 species of bat have been identified here.

Excursion in the protected natural area of the Moravian Karst, presentation of the Karst in the Nature House, a film in 3D, meeting with a facilitator, observation of a live bat, a bus ride or gondola lift to the legendary Macocha chasm and a visit to the caves Punkevní jeskyně with their domes and concretions, and a motor-boat descent of a small underground river, Punkva.



3. WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, TREATMENT OF DRINKING WATER



A. DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT / WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

60 km from Prague, duration 5 hours, The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter

Excursion to a drinking water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant in the Central Bohemian Region, according to capacity.

Tour of the facilities with a technician. Presentation and demonstration of the installations and processes for the purification of the drinking water of the basins (disinfection, mechanical cleaning, aeration, transfer into reservoirs, etc) as well as a demonstration of the plant and the wastewater treatment plant (pre-treatment of coarse dirt, removal of nitrates and phosphorus, active cleaning and sludge treatment, and sedimentation ponds).

Duration 2 h.

DRINKING AND WASTEWATER

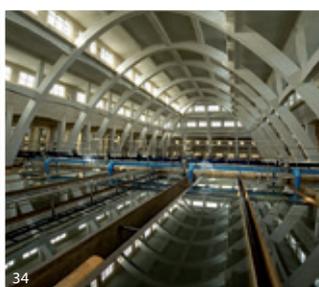
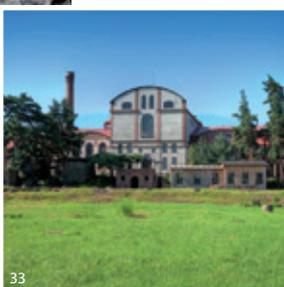
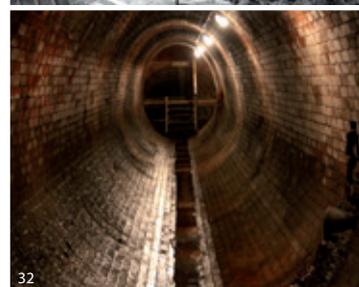


B. PUMPING STATION AND WATERWORKS MUSEUM / OLD TREATMENT STATIONS

Prague, duration 3-4 hours, The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter

Excursion in the historic building of a pumping station and the Waterworks Museum, Prague 4, a unique transformation of technical monuments into a Museum, interior of the «cathedral» designed by Engel with his filtration systems, his collection of water pipes, water meters and pumps. Alternatively, historic buildings of the old water treatment stations, Prague 9, a national cultural monument, a unique testimony to architecture, technology, water management and the sewer system of the early 20th century. Remains of the original equipment, boiler still in service, and steam machines.

Duration 2 h.



4. MINI EDUCATIONAL STAY IN HOSTĚTÍN – AN ECOLOGICAL VILLAGE

312 km from Prague, located on the route Prague - Krakow, Bratislava or Vienna; Duration 2 half-days + 1 night, The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter

The village of Hostětín, with its 240 inhabitants, located on the Czech and Slovak border, in the **protected natural area of the White Carpathians**, has implemented model projects for the protection of the environment in cooperation with the State administration and NGOs since the 1990s. Thanks to these projects it saves up to **1600 tonnes of CO² emissions** per year.

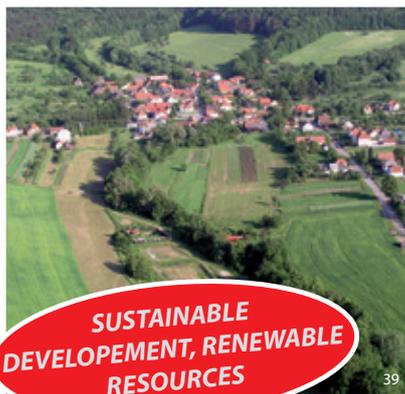
The village houses a **passive house, an organic cider house, economical public street lighting, a communal biomass plant (wood chips) for heating, a purification plant with planted filters**, a natural garden to promote biodiversity (shelters for snakes, bats) and orchards with herbaceous borders, two **photovoltaic power plants and solar panels**, a historic fruit drying house still in use, landscape sculptures, and protected surrounding grasslands with orchids.

Tour of 2 hours, presentation by a facilitator/local guide, demonstration of communal ecological facilities and projects - passive house, an organic cider house, communal biomass heating plant, etc.

Accommodation in dormitories in a local accommodation centre (possibly in the surrounding villages for large groups). Breakfast and dinner based on **home and organic products** or from conventional agriculture.

OPTIONAL / IN ADDITION

Special Programs and complementary - **manual cider production/presing, botanical excursion in the prairies of orchids, courses about the ecological footprint, crafts of our ancestors** - manufacture of toys in wool, etc.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT, RENEWABLE RESOURCES

5. PASSIVE AND ECOLOGICAL HOUSING, THERMAL INSULATION OF BUILDINGS



Prague, duration 4 hours; Brno, duration 9 hours, The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter

Excursion and short conference on the theme of the program **green light for savings, a national project** supported by the sale of emission permits and the state budget, **insulation program** for public and private buildings and **replacement of non-ecological boilers and windows** (2009-2020), followed by a presentation on the theme and trends of passive housing, sustainable development, **energy conservation, green technologies** and renewable resources. Presentation of insulation or passive houses in practice and of used technologies.



GREEN CONSTRUCTIONS, ENERGY SAVINGS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES

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