DISCOVERY OF CZECH INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL HERITAGE

VISITS OF COMPANIES, PLANTS AND TECHNICAL MUSEUMS

1. COAL MINES IN MOST, NORTH BOHEMIA

100 km from Prague, Duration: 6-8 h

The North Bohemian Basin more commonly called Most Basin **is the biggest mining region of the Czech Republic**. Brown coal has been extracted here since the second half of the 19th century. At present, several mines are being utilized and mining sites are being restored.

A. and **B.** **These two guided tours are extremely interesting**. They include a **visit of a quarry**, a presentation of the mining company and mining techniques, a view of the quarry from an observation terrace, demonstration of stripping (soil extraction) using an excavator, **demonstration of coal extraction using an excavator**, landscape restoring demonstration – a racecourse (A, B) and a lake (A).

Duration: approximately 4.5 hours. Maximum number of people per visit: 18.

C. **This tour includes a demonstration of land restoration** –sports grounds, a panorama of the quarry, the hydraulic structure, a decanal church that was moved and a lake (visit of quarries is not included)

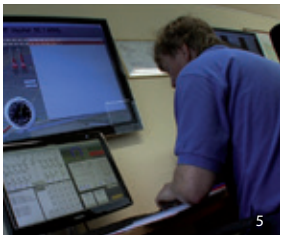
Duration: approximately 2.5 hours. Maximum number of people per visit: 50.

The excursion includes the services of a guide/ interpreter available for 6 - 8 hours.

2. SOLAR POWER PLANT IN VEPŘEK, CENTRAL BOHEMIA

35 km from Prague, Duration: 3 hours

The greatest solar power plant in the Czech Republic. Its installed capacity is 35.1 MW. It was built in 2010 by the company Decci and it is operated by FVE Czech. It is spread over an area of 82.5 hectares and it is composed of 26 blocks containing more than 190,000 monocrystalline solar panels. **The tour includes a film screening about the solar plant, a presentation of technical parts of the plant,** and guided tours in the plant (solar panels, converters, transformers and survey and maintenance systems).



Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours. Maximum number of people per visit: 50.

The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter available for 3 - 4 hours.

3. THE TEMELÍN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, SOUTH BOHEMIA

130 km from Prague, Duration: 10 hours

The Temelín nuclear power plant is the greatest source of electrical energy in the Czech Republic. It was built between 1987 and 2000 but only 2 of 4 production units have been completed.

The guided tour includes a presentation of the nuclear power plant in the Information Centre, a 3D screening, a demonstration in the mist chamber, a visit of an exhibition and a technical room in the main production unit.

Duration: 3 hours. Maximum number of people:only 32 people can visit the production unit in one day. Other visitors can participate in the program in the Information Centre (the visit to this centre is free of charge, but an interpreter is needed).

The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter available for 10 hours.

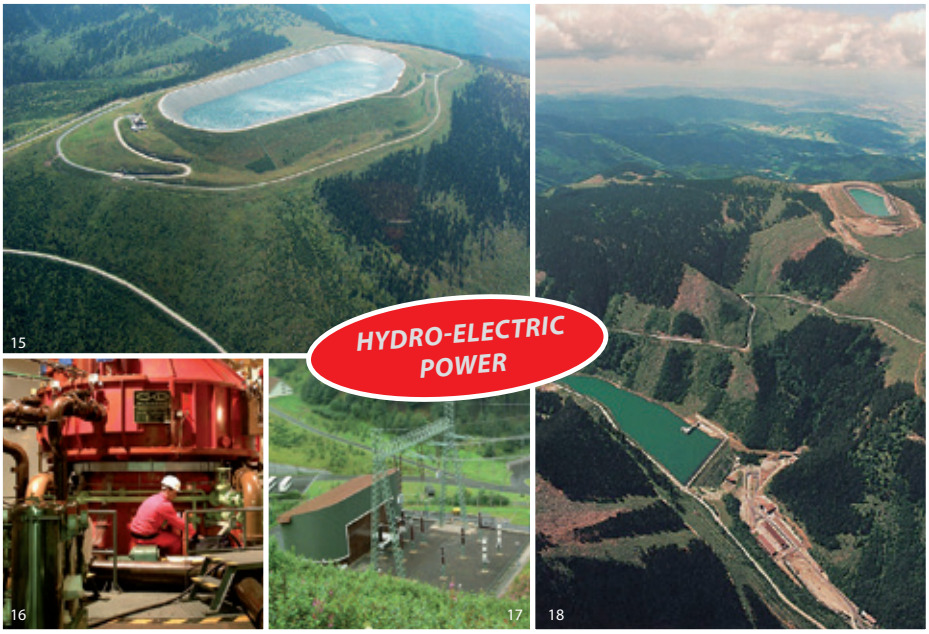
4. THE DLOUHÉ STRÁNĚ HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION, NORTH MORAVIA

246 km from Prague, located on the route Prague-Krakow

Located in the mountain massif of Hrubý Jeseník t**his plant is the most powerful of its kind in the Czech Republic. It ensures the stability of the electricity distribution network of the whole country.** The hydroelectric power station is composed of two reservoirs, the upper and the lower, with the level difference of 510.7m. Station is situated underground and equiped with two turbine units, each with the turbine output of 325 MW. During the excursion, which takes between 2.5 and 3 hours, the visitors will see the Information Centre, watch a film screening, visit the technical room with turbine units and take a tour around the upper and lower reservoirs (the upper reservoir is inaccessible in winter time because of the snow).

Duration: 2.5 to 3 hours. Maximum number of people per visit: 50. Shuttle bus transfer within the plant area provided either by the travel agency or using a local public transport company (fare to pay at the place).

Excursion includes the services of a guide-interpreter, for the duration of the entire excursion.



5. BLAST FURNACE OF ANCIENT STEELWORKS IN DOLNÍ VÍTKOVICE/OSTRAVA, NORTH MORAVIA/SILESIA

375 from Prague, located on the route Prague-Krakow

Ostrava is an important mining and industrial centre of the Czech Republic, where a jewel of industrial architecture is placed: **ancient steelworks of Dolní Vítkovice are considered as unique technical construction work.**

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During the guided tour, you will visit the highest blast furnace, you will see a demonstration of the cast iron fabrication process, you can have a look into the entrails of the furnace extension, you will take an elevator to the top of the extension, from where you can enjoy a view on the whole steelworks including the **black coal mine Hlubina and its mining tower**, coking plants, a gas holder, another blast furnace and a panorama which with its pits, steelworks, rolling mills enhances this place onto «the steel heart of the Czech Republic».

Duration: 1h 40min. Maximum number of people per visit: 25, it is possible to split up visitors into several groups.

Excursion includes the services of a guide-interpreter, for the duration of the entire excursion.

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STEEL INDUSTRY

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6. ŠKODA PRODUCTION PLANT IN MLADÁ BOLESLAV, CENTRAL BOHEMIA

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64 km from Prague, Duration: 6 hours

The greatest vehicle producer in the Czech Republic made its first vehicle in 1905. Nowadays the company makes up part of the Volkswagen Group. The Škoda company is the country's biggest exporter and employs the second largest number of people in the Czech Republic.

A visit of the Škoda Museum is included as well as an excursion in two production facilities e.g. assembly line, stamping, trimming, engine production.

Duration: 3 hours. The visitors use a their own bus for exploring the plant.

The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter, available for 6 hours.

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AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

7. RÜCKL CRYSTAL GLASSWORKS IN NIŽBOR, CENTRAL BOHEMIA

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42 km from Prague, Duration: 4 hours

Rückl Crystal Glassworks was founded by the glassmaking family Rückl. They are specialised in the production of the famous Bohemian Crystal. **The visit includes the individual stages of producing glass crystal** including glassblowing in the glass furnaces, glass melting, quality control, working processes in the cutting room and the painting room.

Duration: 45 min. Maximum number of people per visit: 50.

The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter, available for 4 hours.

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GLASSMAKING

8. TECHNICAL MUSEUM TATRA, NORD MORAVIA

360 km from Prague, on the route Prague-Krakow

The complete collection of vehicles produced by Tatra, the car producer founded in 1850, includes about sixty exhibits of cars and trucks, covering all the stages of the production: frames, engines, project design, racing trophies, historic photographs and rarities. Besides the car and truck exhibits, also shown are reduced models of a handcar, a train and a plane, as well as a film sequences and clips screening.

The visit of the museum is not limited in time and is without a guide. It is possible to book a guided tour.

Duration: 1 hour. Maximum number of people per visit: 40.

Excursion includes the services of a guide-interpreter, for the duration of the entire excursion

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COLLECTOR'S CARS

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9. NATIONAL TECHNICAL MUSEUM, PRAGUE

The National Technical Museum was founded in 1908. It is the greatest institution in the Czech Republic which specializes in the collection of technical artefacts. It is home to a vast collection which documents the development of many technical fields of the natural and exact sciences, and industry. Twelve permanent exhibitions offer an overview of the transport, architecture, engineering and design, astronomy, printing, filmography and photography, home automation, chemistry, time measurement, mining exploitation, metallurgy and technology – all presented in a fun way. School groups can participate in the interactive educational programmes.

The visit of the museum is not limited in time and is without a guide. It is possible to book a guided tour *(Maximum number of people per visit: 15)*.

The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter, available for 4 hours.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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10. TECHMANIA SCIENCE CENTER PLZEŇ, WEST BOHEMIA

90 km from Prague, Duration: 5-6 hours

The University of West Bohemia and Škoda Investment a.s. are the founders of this unique project. Techmania Science Center presents the world of science and technology in a fun way based on personal interaction. The building complex is 30,000m2. There are exhibition halls, school laboratories, workshops and playrooms and a 3D planetarium. Its goal is to offer school groups the possibility of discovering the world of science and technology in an informal and fun way. The exhibition includes interactive exhibits, workshops, and scientific shows to promote the following disciplines: physics, chemistry, maths, astrophysics, biology.

A. Exhibition halls Edutorium – 60 interactive exhibits presenting the following disciplines: optics, mechanics, acoustics, physics and renewable energy sources. Exhibition **Universe** - 27 exhibits, including brain-teasers and scientific games to train your memory, observational capacities, coordination and combining abilities.

Other exhibits: Water world, The future on a plate, 150 years of industry in Pilsen, Man versus animal and **Entropa** - an artwork giving a controversial point of view on European nations.

Duration: 3 hours. Maximum number of people per visit: 50.

B. 3D Planetarium – 2D and 3D projections on a spherical surface. A unique technology, English films.

Duration: 1 hour. Maximum number of people per visit: 50.

C. Laboratories and workshops – physics, chemistry, biology - programmes, tests, experiments, observations, teaching. Specialized interpreter needed.

Duration: 1 hour. Maximum number of people per visit: 12.

The excursion includes the services of a guide/interpreter, available for 5 - 6 hours.

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EDUCATION AND LEISURE

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