

ČESKÝ KRUMLOV WITH THE WELCOME CENTRE

The trip to Český Krumlov started very early at the bus station Na Knížecí. The bus left at 8 a.m. and arrived at Český Krumlov at 11:00. It is 220 km far away, in South Bohemia, near the borders with Austria and Germany. Český Krumlov has about 12 000 inhabitants, so it is a small city nowadays. In 1992 it was UNESCO listed and now lives mostly from tourism.

Český Krumlov is a medieval and Renaissance city. It was very important during the time of the Lords of Rosenberg in the 15th and 16th centuries. Vilém of Rosenberg was the second most important nobleman after the king of Bohemia. From 1602 to 1622, Český Krumlov belonged to the emperor Rudolf II. and the Habsburgs. Then it was given to the Lords of Eggenberg, and finally, it became the property of the Lords of Schwarzenberg. The castle was confiscated by the state after 1948 and is still owned by it.



Originally there were two separate towns: Latrán near the castle and the Old Town on the other side of the river Moldaw which makes several meanders around the cities. Each town used to have fortified walls and gates to protect, especially the bridges. The castle complex consists of the older Lower Castle with two courtyards, the newer Upper Castle with two courtyards, and the Baroque Theatre on the fifth courtyard. Around the Lower Castle is a moat where now two bears live, but unfortunately, they did not show up. Stone bridges replaced the original wooden drawbridges between the courtyards. We could find out all details about the history and how people lived in the past in the Lower Castle exhibition rooms. And we also climbed the bell tower with a beautiful view.

We have been to several viewpoints in the Latrán area and the Old Town area, and everybody took a lot of pictures. After lunch, we walked around the cobbled streets of the Old Town and admired the beautiful Renaissance houses with gables and sgraffito decorations depicting different figures and animals and also the symbol of Rosenbergs – a five-petal rose. We entered the parish church of St. Vitus, where the hearts of some of the Rosenbergs are buried (their bodies are buried in the nearby monastery Vyšší Brod), and we finished our tour on the central square with the Marian column and a fountain. The day before our arrival Christmas market was opened there.



There were several options in the remaining free time: visiting the old Minorite monastery complex, Egon Schiele Art Centre or just enjoying walking or some coffee shop and tasting local delicacies.

The trip was just an introduction, and those who enjoyed it in winter might return in summer to see the castle gardens, the Upper Castle and the Baroque Theatre. But beware, Český Krumlov will not be so quiet – it is a very touristic place during summer holidays, so expect thousands of tourists everywhere.

Thank you all for attending the trip with the Welcome Centre!