



## **DAY & HALF-DAY TOUR DESCRIPTIONS – PRAGUE SLET WEEK 2018**

*Prepared by our Tour Guide in Czech Republic*

### **FULL DAY TOUR - CESKY KRUMLOV - JULY 2nd**

From Prague we will go south for the whole day tour to one of the most picturesque cities in the Czech Republic situated in South Bohemia on the banks of the Vltava river. It is quite a small city with a population of 13,000 but it has many historical buildings and a huge renaissance castle on the high hill above the river. We will have a guided tour around the castle, the second largest in the Czech Republic after Prague, originally built in the 13th century and since then, the city has been a residential seat of many nobel families, the last being the Schwarzenberg family. Each owner left some traces and help to the city to become a unique place worth visiting. For its extraordinary beauty the city was signed on UNESCO Heritage list in 1992. In the castle there is also a unique Castle Baroque Theatre from 1681 possible to visit, the Tower with a view on the city and surrounding landscape and the garden with a very unique „Revolving Theatre“, the only one in the Czech Republic. After visiting the Castle we will walk through narrow and picturesque streets and lanes of the city, we will cross the Vltava River and we can visit the main square with a beautiful renaissance City Hall, the fountain, the nearby gothic Church of St. Vitus and many shops and restaurants or coffee shops which line the streets. For art lovers there are also several art galleries and Art Center pf Egon Schiele, well known Austrian artist, who spent some time in Cesky Krumlov. After visiting all those place we will return back to Prague. Lunch will be possible on your own during your free time in Cesky Krumlov.

### **HALF DAY TOUR – PILSEN (6 hours) – July 3rd**

After breakfast at the Prague hotels we will go by our bus to PILSEN, the city known as the cradle of Pilsen (style) beer or Pils. Pilsner city is situated in the west of Bohemia about one hour drive from Prague. It is the fourth largest city in the Czech republic with more than 170,000 inhabitants, known as industrial city for its former SKODA factory producing industrial machines and means of transport, both are still produced there but under another name. If not industry, for sure Pilsner beer is world well known. They produced there Pilsner Urquel and Radegast. Nowadays brewery was established in 1842. Historical center has large square with a beautiful and very dominant Cathedral of St. Bartolomej, the second largest Synagogue in the Czech republic and Theatre building. It means that the city is also the center of culture and thanks to the West Bohemian University and the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague it is also the center of education. Because Pilsen, as well as the West Bohemia, was liberated by the USA army led by General Patton, there is a Monument of Liberation by American Army and also the museum „Patton Memorial Pilsen“. During of our visit of Pilsen we will make a brief bus tour around the city center, make a stop at the Monument of Liberation and then we will go straight to the most famous brewery in the Czech Republic –Pilsner Urquel for a guided tour with beer tasting. After the tour which takes about 90 minutes there will be opportunity for shopping in their beer and souvenir shop. There is also lunch possible in the local restaurant.

### **HALF DAY TOUR (5 to 6 hours) – NIZBOR GLASS FACTORY – July 4th**

After breakfast at the hotel we will go by our bus to visit the private glass factory in Nizbor. The name of the private glass factory is Ruckl factory. The factory was founded in 1903 by Anthony Ruckl, the member of an old glass making family, whose rootes go back to the 17th century The factory was working until 1945 when it was taken over by the state and in 1965 the factory became the part of Bohemian Glass factory group. After the change of the regime glass factory was privatized by the great grandson of the founder Mr. Anthony Ruckl, by George Ruckl. Today the factory specialized on the manually cut glass and crystal. The glass factory is today well known also for production of various state awards, for example for The Queen Elizabeth II, The Pope John Paul II. and others During of our visit of the glass factory we will have the guided tour around the factory where we can see authentic production of blown glass and manually cut glass, we can admire hard working men and also some women in very hot environment, to see how skilled they are, and after the tour we can also buy there either manually made or machine made products. Ninety percent of Ruckl products are made for export mainly to USA, Arab Emirates and Japan. After shopping we will return back to Prague to our hotels.

### **FULL DAY TOUR - KARLOVY VARY – July 5th**

After breakfast we will depart for the whole day tour to the west of Prague, to the most visited spa town Karlovy Vary (or Carlsbad,) situated in the west of Bohemia close to the German border. The city was founded in the middle of the 14th century, when during the hunting of our King Charles IV. with his friends by accident they discovered hot mineral springs. Charles IV gave the kings rights to Karlovy Vary in 1371 and tried the curative effects of hot springs on himself with very good results. The spa town became really popular in the 18th century, when some important men such as Russian Tzar Peter I, The Great, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Goethe, the English King Edward VII and others visited repeatedly the spa town. Development and the fame continued in 19th and the beginning of 20th century. Today Karlovy Vary are still very famous and picturesque spa town, also the place where the world film festival takes place every July. The town is also known for glass production, especially the world famous Moser Glass, and production of famous Bohemian liquor BECHEROVKA. In Karlovy Vary there we will visit BECHEROVKA museum with Becherovka tasting and shopping opportunity, we will have a guided tour through the spa area with many beautiful spa buildings, colonades, houses and hot water springs, where we will always stop for water tasting. After the tour there will be free time for lunch and shopping. Early evening we will return back to Prague to the hotels.

### **HALF DAY TOUR - LIDICE (5 hours) - July 6th - (back by 2pm for Slet performance)**

**\*This trip may be cancelled based on the number of participants...**

After breakfast we will drive north west of Prague to visit one of the most memorial places in the Czech Republic – Memorial Lidice. Lidice was the village close to Kladno which was destroyed and demolished as the punishment for the assassination of Mr. Reinhard Heydrich in June 1942 in the middle of the World War II. 173 men above age 15 were shot on the garden of Horak family estate, the women were taken to concentration camp and the children were sent to the Chelmno camp where they were killed by gas with exception of several children who were chosen to be sent to Germany to undergo the re-education. Only 164 Lidice women and one man had survived the tragedy and returned back to Lidice after the war. New village was built for the people afterwards. In Lidice Memorial there we can visit the Museum with the movie about Lidice village and its inhabitants, the small exhibition room with pictures and belongings of Lidice inhabitants, the beautiful sculpture of all Lidice children, the basement of the Horak family estate and the common grave of shot Lidice boys and men, the basement of the school, basement of 14th century gothic St. Martin's Church, the old cemetery and several reverential sculptures. There is also the Rose garden, whose origin was initiated by the British society, who collected money under slogan „LIDICE SHALL LIVE“. Besides the Memorial place we can also visit the Lidice Gallery with unique collection of paintings – gifts of the best Czech, German and other international artists of 20th century. After the visit we will go back to Prague hotels.



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**REGISTRATION - ORDER FORM**

**Deadline: April 1st - Form & Payment**

*Space is limited, register as soon as possible.*

*Tours are open to everyone.*

*You will be advised which hotel the bus will depart from...*

*Please remit payment for the trips with your registration.*

*Checks can be made payable to: American Sokol*

*Credit Card payments: Please call the National Office with your information*

*Email or mail this registration form to the National office.*

*American Sokol  
9126 Ogden Ave  
Brookfield IL 60513*

*Phone: 708.255.5397  
Email: [aso@american-sokol.org](mailto:aso@american-sokol.org)*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

<u>TOUR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
FULL DAY Český Krumlov	July 2	\$72	_____	_____
HALF DAY Plzeň	July 3	\$60	_____	_____
HALF DAY Nižbor	July 4	\$48	_____	_____
FULL DAY Karlovy vary	July 5	\$45	_____	_____
*HALF DAY Lidice	July 6	\$32	_____	_____

**Please list the names of others that you are registering:**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\*Lidice tour is TBD based on the number of people registering. We must leave early and return to be in attendance at the afternoon Slet performance.

NOTE: If you registered on a previous form, please re-register with this form.