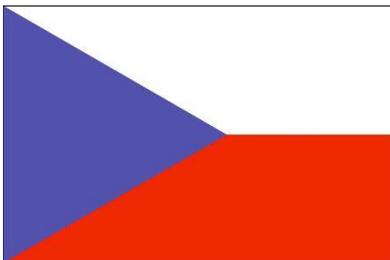




# **Praha – Tour guide – 15.5.2015**

## **Project CLAP**

**CuLture , nature And People - meeting points of Lithuania,  
The Czech Republic and Bulgaria Erasmus + 2014-2016**



Guided tour round PRAGUE 15th May 2015

## CLAP - European Project - Erasmus +

Culture, Nature And People - Meeting Points Of Lithuania the Czech Republic and Bulgaria

1st visit to the Czech Republic

The route of the sightseeing walk round Prague



Your route starts at the tube station Malostranská and passes Czech Government buildings - the first stop on the route is Hanavský Pavilion



1) Hanavský pavilion is a charming building in neo-baroque style which was originally built for the Jubilee exhibition in 1891 to represent iron, concrete and glass constructions of a successful owner of Komárov ironworks. This unique building was named after prince Vilem Hanavsky the owner of the firm. After the exhibition ended there was a problem where to place this artistic construction so it was dismantled and assembled again at this convenient spot with an outstanding perfect view of the Vltava bridges and Prague landscape.

2) Staré zámecké schody (The Old Castle staircase) - it is a really famous passage to Prague Castle which was walked on by many famous celebrities - there is a song about it by a famous singer and song-writer Karel Hašler who was murdered in Concentration camp by Nazis in the WWII. The song Po starých zámeckých schodech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8Iya2N8eic>



3) Prague Castle is the most important castle in the Czech Republic and it has been registered in Guinness Book of Records as the largest ancient castle compound in

the world. There are a few historic castles, church buildings, gardens and picturesque lanes and corners. First buildings were built in 9th century and since then the small place has grown up into the largest city in our country. Prague Castle was a residence of Czech kings and two Holy Roman emperors. Since the end of WW I. it has been used as the seat of Czech presidents. Inside one of the concealed rooms in the castle Bohemian Crown Jewels are kept. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague\\_Castle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague_Castle)

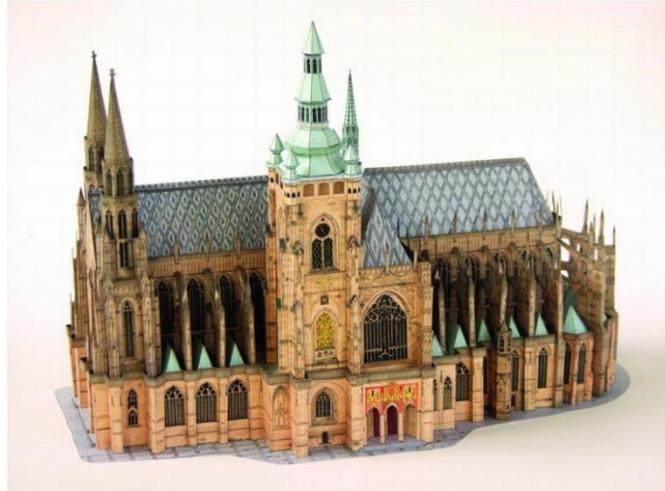
4) Golden Lane is a street situated at the Prague Castle. Its name comes from the 16 century because of gold which had been traded and processed there until WW II. It is known for its really tiny cosy houses where goldsmiths used to live in the Middle Ages .



5) St. George's Basilica is the oldest surviving church building within Prague Castle area in Romanesque style . It was built in the year 920 as a second church in Prague by Vratislav I, Duke of Bohemia. It is dedicated to Saint George. There is also a cemetery of Premyslids ( Přemyslovci ) dynasty - the first Czech kings. Now there is a Bohemian Art Collection of National Gallery and there is also a concert hall.

#### 6) Katedrála Sv. Víta.

St. Vitus Cathedral is one of the most characteristic landmarks for Prague. It is the largest and most important Czech cathedrals based by prince Wenceslas - patron Saint of our state. In the 10th century a Romanesque church was at this place. However the base stone of the Gothic Cathedral was laid by our most important king Charles IV and his



father Jan Lucemburský in 1344. It took 600 years to finish the cathedral till 1929. Inside you can admire breathtaking architecture and decorations by the outstanding architects Matthias from Arras and Peter Parléř who built the choir with the wreath of chapels around. This is the place where most significant sovereigns were crowned and buried. And relics of Czech patrons, noblemen and archbishops are saved there.

In front of the main altar there is a kings-mausoleum and under it in the underground there is a kings' tomb with coffins of the most significant kings and queens.

One of the most beautiful chapels is Saint Wenceslas Chapel. The walls are decorated with precious gemstones and paintings showing the life of Saint Wenceslas. You can get to the Jewel Chamber where Czech Crown Jewels are kept. They are on display very rarely.

The biggest bell in the Czech Republic is placed there in the tall tower which is called Zikmund after the Czech king the brother of Václav (the Saint Wenceslas who was murdered and proclaimed saint the patron of our country)



7) Loreta - a pilgrimage place with a central chapel that contain a chimes (glockenspiel) that sounds each hour. There is also kept the most precious treasure in the Czech Republic in the treasury chamber.

8) Nerudova street- is one of the most interesting and popular places in Prague. Long time

ago it was a part of the Royal Route where coronation procession of Czech kings went along across the Charles bridge to the Castle. Till the twentieth century the street was named Ostruhova. It is a part of Malá Strana (Lesser Town) and it is a collection of city houses built in the Middle Ages but renowned in the Renaissance period. Each house has its own house sign and is called after that - for example The House By Three Violines.... However, now the street is named after the famous writer and poet - Jan Neruda - who lived in The House By The Two Suns".

9) St. Nicholas Church in Neruda Square is considered the most important artistic baroque building in the Czech Republic. Its construction began in 1703 and its complete decoration was done after about 100 years of hard work. The Organ which contains 4 000 pipes is probably the most interesting thing in the temple. Even Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart played on this organ. The main dome is decorated with frescoes. These frescoes are considered the largest ones in the whole world. The dominant of the building is 70 meters high cupola and 79 meters high belfry (the tower with a bell), which was originally used as a fire tower. The building was used as a watch and spy-tower in the communist era. State security used the tower to spy embassies of the USA, Yugoslavia and West Germany.



10) Kampa "Prague's Venice" upon Čertovka stream is a small artificial island nearby the River Vltava in Prague. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century Prague citizens began to build mills and water mills there and later they were replaced by noble gardens. After the WW2 the gardens were connected and adjusted to a public park. Between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries loads of famous pottery markets were held there. Now it is a residence of wealthy people and celebrities and a famous Art gallery Sovovy Mlýny (Sova Mills).



### 11) Charles' Bridge

is the oldest bridge across the river Vltava in Prague. It was built in 15<sup>th</sup> century by the order of the king Karel IV. It is built of stone. The important stuff for building this bridge were eggs. The builders put eggs in the mortar which should make this bridge stronger. The bridge is decorated with statues of different sculptors. The important

one is **Matyáš Bernard Braun**. Now lots of buskers are performing there and sell their work, because the Charles' s Bridge is an important tourist path into the centre of city.

**12) The Jan Hus Memorial** stands in the middle of **Staroměstské náměstí the Old Town Square**. The huge monument shows victorious Hussite warriors and also Protestants who were forced to leave the country into exile 200 years after Hus, and a young mother who symbolises national rebirth. The monument was so large that the sculptor designed and built his own villa and studio where the work could be carried out. It was unveiled in 1915 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Jan Hus' death - he was burnt at the stake as an enemy for the church. He fought against the dishonesty in the church authorities. The memorial was designed by Ladislav Šaloun and paid for only by public donations. Born in 1369, Hus became an influential religious thinker, philosopher, and reformer in Prague.



**13) The Orloj** is mounted on the southern wall of **Old Town City Hall** in the Old Town Square. The clock mechanism itself is composed of three main components: the astronomical dial, representing the position of the Sun and Moon in the sky and displaying various astronomical details; "The Walk of the Apostles", a clockwork hourly show of figures of the Apostles and other moving sculptures—notably a figure of Death (represented by a skeleton) striking the time; and a calendar dial with medallions representing the months. According to local legend, the city will suffer if the clock is neglected and its good operation is placed in jeopardy and a skeleton, mounted on the clock, was supposed nod his head in confirmation. Based on the legend, the only hope was represented by a boy born in the New Year' s night.

**14) Stavovské divadlo** (Estates theatre) is a classicist building built in the 18th century by Antonín Haffenecker. At first it was named **Nosticovo divadlo** (Nostic's theatre) after a count of German nationality nobleman František Antonín Nostic-Rieneck who wanted to build a theatre for public. The theatre was being built only for two years and it was opened in 1783.



In 1787 a premiere of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's opera **Don Giovanni** took place there. Mr. Mozart composed this opera for Prague. In 1799 the theatre was bought by Czech nobility and renamed into Stavovské divadlo (the theatre of the noblemen). Since this time the performances were run in Czech language. In 1980s Miloš Forman's film **Amadeus** was shot there .



**15) Prašná brána** - was built in 1475 as a part of a road to Kutná Hora, a miner town from where silver was brought to the royal treasury. It is an outstanding piece of architecture. In the 18th century it served as a gunpowder storage especially when the Swedish armies came and damaged it a lot. In the 19th century it got recent pseudogothic look. That is why it is called Prašná brána - gunpowder gate. Today, the Powder Tower is used as a museum and observing tower



**16) Obecní dům** - "Council house" Originally called - the Ceremonial House of Capital City of Prague - is one of the most famous Art Nouveau buildings in Prague - This is the style in which most of buildings in Pardubice and Hradec Králové is built too - it's the style of the beginning of the 20th century. It's used mainly for ceremonial purposes. Council house was built in 1905-1912. The renowned Czech artists took part in the decorating the interior. The largest of the rooms there is called Smetana Hall and it's used as a concert hall for approx. 1,200 listeners. The traditional festival of classical music "Pražské jaro" (Prague Spring) is held there.

**17) Na příkopěch** - It is one of the most famous and best known street in Prague. In the Middle Ages there was a deep moat or a ditch around the city fortification. It was dug up between 1232 -1234. It joins Wenceslas square and the Republic Square. In the last century it was one of the busiest Prague passages, nowadays since 1985 it's used as a pedestrian zone. In this area we can find loads of very expensive and famous boutiques, clothes shops or jewellery stores for example Tommy Hilfiger, Lacoste, Marks & Spencer etc.



**18) The National Theatre** is a leading stage of our country. Every Czech can be proud of this beautiful neo-renaissance building which was built in the period of national revival and self-awareness. The whole nation raised money for the construction - as a counterweight of theatres performing their plays in German. The theatre was finished in 1881 and it was destroyed by fire just after its opening. The nation contributed to the collection again and the theatre was finished very quickly 2 years later in 1883 by the opera Libuše by Bedřich Smetana. Since then the best operas, drama and ballets have been being performed there.

**19) Wenceslas Square** We are staying in front of Josef Václav Myslbek's statue of the national patron St. Václav (Wenceslas) from 1912. It is one of the most famous sculptures in Prague and it is made of bronze. It consists of



five patrons of the Czech lands. Saint Václav (Wenceslas) dominated most of them. He is on the massive plinth and the other patrons are st. Prokop, st. Ludmila and st. Vojtěch. The sculptor worked on it for thirty years and he cooperated with two other sculptors. The statue is a symbol of Czech state and the site is used in a similar way as the statue of Amor at Piccadilly Circus in London - it serves as an easy-to-find meeting point in Prague ...."OK, at 5pm at the Horse"

**20)** National Museum - a neo-renaissance building nowadays - under the very extensive reconstruction planned to be finished in 2018 for the 200th anniversary of its establishing in 1818. During WWII it was damaged by a bomb and in 1968 - when the Warsaw pact armies especially Russian came to suppress revolutionary movement they considered the building to be the seat of government and they shot at the front facade.

Inside there are vast collections of nature and science.



**21)** The State Opera is the first opera house in Prague and it is one of the most important and most beautiful music scenes in Europe. We can find there a beautiful neo-classical and neo-Rococo decor. It is a part of the National Theatre of the Czech Republic.

The State Opera was founded in the second half of the 19 century. Many famous artists performed there, for example Richard Strauss, Enrico Caruso, Gustav Mahler and many other famous people.

Every year, a very well-known music festival of classics Prague Spring is held there from 12th May to 4th June. Opera lovers from all over the world can enjoy outstanding singers, orchestras and musicians worldwide. These days you can see for example the opera La Traviata by Giacomo Puccini , Rusalka by our Antonín Dvořák or the ballet Swan Lake by Petr Iljič Čajkovskij.