

## *Nice to see you in Český Krumlov!*

Can you hear it? The Krumlov tower bells have just rung off another fraction of eternity. They've been doing this for centuries. Maybe you woke up just a while ago full of expectations for the new day, or maybe you are having a rest with a nice cup of afternoon coffee, planning where else to go, or maybe you are re-living your fresh experiences, looking forward to tomorrow.

Can you still feel the Krumlov bells resonating? They are reminding you we have become part of the town's organism for a little while. How can you make the best use of the time? Some people will be happy just to relax, others will be happy walking through the streets, but we'd like to offer you much more. We sincerely believe everybody can enjoy their stay in Český Krumlov.

But let's not waste any more of our time - come and fill it with impressions, leisure and joy! You can find inspiration on these pages.

*Did you know that the first written record of Český Krumlov as a town dates back to 1309? The town has become an exceptional architectural treasure since then, and it was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992.*

### **Changes in the town and region through the ages**

Just a little walk through the town and - all of a sudden - you find yourself several centuries back in time, following in the steps of our predecessors. Their lives centred around the square and the streets directed to the ramparts. The crooked lanes and robust walls of historical houses have not been changed - so you can admire the true originals. Walking along the Latrán, Horní Street or the square, gazing up at facades and house fronts, you would insist that it was just yesterday when the bygone stone cutters' hammers and chisels were put aside: the perfectly preserved original appearance and decorations of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque houses are just fascinating. Many of them could fairly be called an "open air old masters' gallery".

The historical center of the town is not very large but offers a great many attractive places. To make sure you will not miss anything normally hidden, it is advisable to take a **guided sightseeing tour**. Depending on your preferences, you have a wide choice of themed tours. In addition, there is an interesting option for visitors who would like to enjoy a talk by a professional guide but they prefer sightseeing on their own, not with an organized tourist group: you can have an audio guide, a little electronic pocket guide.

**Český Krumlov Castle and Chateau** – the dominating feature and the symbol of the town, one of the largest castle complexes in Europe, is impressive from outside and breathtaking from inside. It is not just ostentatious rooms, halls and noble bedrooms that attract every visitor taking a guided tour. Due to the fact that the castle caretaker, the smith, the stableman and the apothecary used to live directly in the castle, you can visit even more historical facilities, the so-called "background" areas: it is worth seeing the well-preserved old laundry room and enjoying the study room full of ancient scientific instruments and curiosities. When you look at the walls in the Masquerade Room, marvelling at the abundance of the figures in

masks, you will appreciate the skills and effort of Josef Lederer, the painter, who managed to complete the decorations in less than six months without any assistance.

The **Baroque Theater** is - at first sight - a rather inconspicuous building in the 5th courtyard. In fact, it is a truly unique structure. Besides the stage, the original equipment remained well preserved (the coulisse, costumes, decorations, librettos) and the stage technical instruments too, so even today you can hear exactly the same thunderstorm or wind as the visitors could perceive during performances more than 250 years ago.

Before you start the castle walking tour, you can climb the **tower**, in order to look over the whole premises of the castle and the historical downtown area too. The bird's eye view is not only impressive: it will reveal the extraordinary town disposition inside the Vltava River meander.

The pleasant conclusion of the sightseeing tour is a walk and rest on the benches in the **castle gardens**, which is a lovely place with a cascade fountain, French flower beds and a summer house in the rococo style called the Bellarie.

Besides the castle tower, the tall and slim Gothic style tower of **St. Vitus' Church**, built at the beginning of the 15th century, completes the characteristic silhouette of the town. Experts regard it greatly, in particular for the master stone cutters' work, well-visible at the Gothic three-aisled dome, while non-experts are impressed by the tall, daring vault and picture decorations. When you look around the church, you will proceed to the gallery, which provides a beautiful view of the part of the town and the Vltava River that is not visible from the castle tower.

*Did you know that keeping bears at the chateau in Český Krumlov is an ancient tradition? William of Rosenberg kept bears in relation to an ancient family legend as early as the 2nd half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. According to this legend his forbears were related to the Italian noble family the Orsinis – Orsa means female bear in Italian. Bears even serve as shield bearers of the Rosenberg coat of arms, which bears the symbol of a five-petalled rose. At present you can look into the enclosure in the castle moat and wave to the bears called Katherine, Theresa and Vok.*

**It is worth setting out in the surrounding areas in order to visit significant architectural, artistic and natural sights and monuments – there are plenty of them within a very short distance!**

**Rožmberk Castle** – The castle is a dominant feature above the turn of the Vltava River that is well known to every water-sports enthusiast - and an unforgettable experience for every visitor who takes a tour around the castle, for example, the night event with a scenic performance. What is more, it is attractive for children, too, since there is a special program designed for them. **Dívčí kámen** (Maiden's Stone) is the largest medieval stronghold ruin in the country, promising a romantic experience. It is situated on top of a high rock cliff above the Vltava valley and Křemežský creek. Perhaps the most spectacular view of the Lipno Dam, and in a good weather of the Alps, is offered to visitors to the walkway on the top of **Vítek's Castle** - ruins on the right bank of the Lipno Dam. This part of the Šumava Mountains, newly open to the public after decades, when it had been a closed border zone, will enchant every visitor due to its nature, which seems to be untouched by human hands.

The genius loci of important monasteries and places of pilgrimage around Český Krumlov will impress visitors coming to this region: **Zlatá Koruna** – The former monastery is one of the most valuable complex buildings of the Gothic period in central Europe. If you use your imagination a little bit here, you can imagine the life of Cistercian monks many centuries ago. They used to live in another, not very distant, monastery, **Vyšší Brod**, too. The legendary Rosenberg family tomb is hidden in its church, under the flooring. The **postal museum** that found a refuge in the monastery is also worth visiting.

When you stop for a while between the Gothic arches of the temple, watching the sky above your head that closes the dome instead of stone or bricks, you may go through an exceptional spiritual experience. The same may happen to open-minded pilgrims at **Kuklov**, a torso of a Gothic temple and monastery that had never been completed. Another place which is able to evoke unusual feelings is a unique **Way of the Cross in Římov**. A walk throughout the picturesque landscape around the town will take you approximately one hour. At 25 stations, you can admire Baroque sculptures installed here in chapels, there in open space. Another important Marian pilgrimage place is the Gothic **church in Kájov**, connected with many legends. You can certainly come across other churches, real architectonic jewels, while travelling through the villages in the surroundings (**Zátoň, Chvalšiny, Boletice, Světlík, Černice, Polná na Šumavě**, etc).

Do you know you may begin the famous **St. James pilgrimage to the Spanish Santiago de Compostella** here in Český Krumlov region? The 135 kilometres long stage is marked with the St. James scallop shell emblem and starts at the 1st courtyard, continuing via places of pilgrimage in Kájov, Světlík, Frymburk, Přední Výtoň and Svatý Tomáš to Austrian Mühlviertel and Bavaria.

*Set off and follow the trails of history, art and fairy tales!*

Historic Český Krumlov has, with its beauty and outstanding location on the banks of the Vltava River, inspired many generations of artists. Its picturesque lanes and corners have obviously been most celebrated by **Egon Schiele**, a world-famous artist, painter and graphic designer. A part of his works, and artistic pieces of other significant artists (M. Chagall, S. Dalí, K. Haring, A. Giacometti, etc.) are available at exhibitions in the **Egon Schiele Art Centrum**. The famous exhibition room, situated in the Renaissance building of the former brewery, is a must for every art lover and tourist. You can find out that Český Krumlov is really a great artistic center by visiting some of the expositions presented by the **Agency of Czech Ceramic Design** of which the combination of modern ceramic creations and the ancient cellars - **Wenceslas cellars** - at the 4th courtyard is especially impressive. Then, there is the **Gallery of Czech Culture** installed in the so-called Máselnice on the 2nd courtyard, or the ceramic studio called **Na Fortně**. You can have a firsthand experience and see how artistic pieces are created when you visit the **Konvalinková Studio**.

If you arrive at the idea that in this perfectly preserved historical locality you find yourself in another time period and that time has stopped right here, you should go to the original **Museum Fotoatelier Seidel** too and your feelings will be doubled. The authentic photographic atelier established at the beginning of the 20th century will offer you noteworthy period pictures of Krumlov and its surroundings. You can admire its original technical equipment and take a picture of your own in front of the same coulisses as the customers coming to the atelier during the interwar period. The works of mostly contemporary photographers, however, are presented in, for example, the **House of Photography** or at the foyer of the **Municipal Theater**.

History, which is well-identifiable here by the perfectly preserved houses and their marvellous facades and decorations, catches the visitors coming to Český Krumlov at every single step. You can investigate the history and development of the town more deeply if you visit the **Museum of Architecture and Crafts**. You can find original window shutters, doors, fittings, and other remarkable details there. Another trip back in time is offered in the **Regional Museum** where you can find a lot of interesting details about the history and culture in the town and the surrounding area. A number of museums in Český Krumlov are able to offer "lighter" expositions, designed for families with children: for example, there is an exposition of instruments of torture in the **Museum of Torture Instruments** or you can enjoy wax figures of famous personalities in the **Wax Museum**. Young boys and their fathers will definitely love the **expositions of historical motorcycles** in the Krumlov Mill. Another great experience is a tour around the **Eggenberg Brewery**, with degustation of excellent unpasteurized beer at the end. It might be surprising for many that Český Krumlov has attractive underground areas as well: if you want to find out more about it, you can take **a tour to a former graphite mine**. Wearing the gear that includes hard hat and head lamp you will take an educational ride through dark corridors on the mining train.

### **Trips to the surroundings**

Not only the town itself but also the fabulous surrounding areas of Southern Bohemia and not very distant Šumava Mountains invite you for sightseeing and entertainment trips. Among other things, the local region is abundant with technical monuments: The exposition in Lipno nad Vltavou presents a unique underground **water power plant** and its construction between 1952 and 1959. The museum in Chvalšiny will show you the history of another unique work – the **Schwarzenberg waterway** - and the personality of its genius creator, Josef Rosenauer, who was a native of Chvalšiny. In Bujanov, you can visit a museum that presents a famous **Horse-drawn railway** from Budějovice to Linz, Austria. As for the other museums, the house where **Adalbert Stifter**, a Šumava writer, was born, located in Horní Planá, and the **Museum of Passion Plays** in Hořice na Šumavě, where the tradition of passion plays dates back to the 19th century, are worth visiting.

*Did you know that the observatory under the peak of Kleť hill (1,084 meters above sea level) is the highest such facility in Bohemia? During the visit you may get familiar with the research program (discoveries of asteroids and comets, observation of close asteroids), view the permanent exhibition of astronomical pictures, see the biggest lens telescope in the Czech Republic, and if the weather allows watch the projection of sun spots.*

### *Celebrations and festivals*

Visits to Český Krumlov are always made more attractive and more pleasant with interesting and unique events and activities. These take place mostly during the main tourist season but many out of it as well. You won't be bored at all during the whole rest of the year. Just come and experience it! When the winter season is approaching its end, you can come across exultant hordes of conjurers, musicians and colorful masks - participants in **shrovetide**. Hardly anybody could resist the wonderful smell of the traditional carnival feast. The May Day kiss, a modern custom, at the Svornosti Square, nicknamed the Love Square for the month when the **Magical Krumlov** event is held, could not be sweeter anywhere else. Witches fly over the town, a maypole is erected, various concerts take place and a lantern parade is held – and a number of museums and galleries are open for free on May Day! If you love theater performances, you should not miss some of the open-air shows held in the castle

gardens where you will become a direct participant - an actor - due to the unique **revolving theatre**.

A truly unforgettable experience can be had at the historic **Five-Petalled Rose Celebrations** that are held every year at midsummer. When else could you have the chance to shake hands with Vilém of Rožmberk and pay a compliment to his sister-in-law Kateřina of Ludanice? You too may experience being a nobleman or a beggar dressed in a period costume. However, even without the period costume you can make a full-week trip back into history and experience the atmosphere of the medieval town during a celebration. You can enjoy a grandiose parade, a variety of theatre and dance performances, knight tournaments, traditional craft fairs, fireworks, and also relax in stylish inns.

But the town does not lose its characteristic atmosphere with the end of the historic festival. Halls, the church, gardens, castle terraces, and courtyards will soon be filled with the sound of classical music and modern tunes, because the musical summer has started. It begins with the **Chamber Music Festival**, followed by the **Early Music Festival**, which includes performances of artists playing historical instruments in an authentic environment. The highlight of the cultural season in Český Krumlov has for many years been the **International Music Festival Český Krumlov**, held traditionally under the President's sponsorship, with participation of leading Czech and foreign artists.

The end of the summer holidays is traditionally devoted to the **Jazzky Krumlov festival**, which is a great opportunity for enjoying spontaneous music productions not only in the concert halls but in local pubs as well. Český Krumlov can prepare an interesting weekend for disabled visitors too. On **the Day without Barriers**, and at least for some time, all steps and barriers are "removed", and specialist guides assist blind people so that they can visit and enjoy the sights. It is very useful and enriching for every able-bodied visitor to get closer to the life of disabled people. This is specifically possible through a variety of specialized programs and workshops.

Would you love to take a look in places that are rarely accessible? Would you like to know the secrets hidden in the monuments? **European Heritage Days** is the event that will give you an opportunity to get to know more about significant buildings in the town, their history, and the ways in which they are protected and restored. Do you have a man named Václav in your family? Do you have a friend called Václav? Take him to the **Saint Wenceslas Celebrations** in Český Krumlov! It is not only the bearers of this name who may enjoy a pleasant time with a glass of beer, wine or mead or a plate of culinary delicacies of traditional Czech cuisine. **The Open Museum Night**, when museums and galleries are open for free and provide special programs, is the final period of festivities and includes a fair and amusements.

However, there is a variety of entertainment options even beyond the main tourist season! Baroque builders and musicians are honoured in authentic rooms as part of the **Festival of Baroque Arts**. Are you concerned about the environment we live in? And about nature? And are you interested in the urban landscape? If you are, the abundant **Ecofilm** program will undoubtedly be the perfect choice for you.

Why don't you try to abandon all that hustle and bustle at the end of year, and enjoy **Advent**, considered by many people to be the most beautiful time in Český Krumlov? Putting on lights on the Christmas tree, singing carols and St Nicholas celebrations are not necessarily designed exclusively for kids. The traditional program includes writing letters to the Baby Jesus and

giving presents to the bears living in the castle moat. You can buy presents made by craftsmen at the Christmas traditional fair and, to keep your hands warm when choosing them, have a cup of punch, grog or hot mead. The Christmas atmosphere is crowned by the live **Nativity scene that presents a story from the Bible**, narrated by local people and accompanied by dance and music. **The Three Kings**, who come and blow out the candles on the Christmas tree installed at the square, herald an end to the Christmas season.

After that, you can look forward to the upcoming year, which - again - will be full of unusual experiences in Český Krumlov.

### *Active holiday*

Come to Český Krumlov to relax and draw new strength! The town itself and the surrounding nature offer an inexhaustible supply of possibilities for your leisure time. You may even arrive by water! **Canoeing** is one of the most popular ways to spend an active holiday in the Czech Republic; it's been inseparably linked to the Vltava River, which in turn has its own relations with Český Krumlov. Leading the canoe or kayak through the difficult weir passage under the Plášťový Bridge is considered the highlight of every boating expedition, which water-sportsmen love. Anyway, it is a challenge - will you be able to get through without an unwanted dip in the water? Wildwater lovers who would like to compete with other water-sportsmen should take part in the autumn **Český Krumlov River Marathon**, probably the biggest and the most attended event of this type in the Czech Republic.

The slightly hilly landscape of the Český Krumlov region invites you for a ride on a **bike** or a trip - **nordic walking** style. Did you leave your bicycle or poles at home? No problem at all! There are several places in the town where the knowledgeable staff will be pleased to lend you the sports equipment you need. And then you can set off, to follow some of the trails leading through forests and the countryside full of natural beauties and, often, monuments. On the other hand, if you need to save your steps and physical capacity, you can choose the "motorized" alternative and explore the town and its surroundings on a motor **scooter**, or to ride a **quad bike along a special cross-country track**. Again, there is a special network of agencies that will lend you the vehicle. People who love viewing the world from **horseback** may enjoy a ride in an indoor or outdoor riding hall, or set out to do a sightseeing loop through the fields.

Long trousers, a T-shirt with a collar, but – most importantly - the green, the club and the ball... these are the symbols of **golf**. When you add the marvellous landscape of the Český Krumlov region, it is very clear that we mean the sports grounds in **Svachova Lhotka**. Just 5 km from Český Krumlov, you will come across an 18-hole golf course, comprising flat and slightly hilly greens, short and long four-pars and several three-level holes. The course is recommended both for experienced players and for beginners. Lovers of the "**white sport**" will find outdoor clay courts with night lighting in Krumlov. When the weather is not good, tennis players can play in a sheltered hall that comprises three courses with artificial surfaces and a pleasant restaurant.

It is not the only way to spend rainy days or evenings: Another attractive point of your holiday may be a tournament with your friends playing **bowling**, **skittles** or **squash**. And when you feel like a swim, you no longer have to think of the weather and the season. The 25-meter-long **indoor swimming pool** is available all year round.

If you feel like you have seen it all in Krumlov and its close neighbourhood, and experienced everything there is, new exciting moments are awaiting on the banks of the nearby **Lipno Dam**. As a spectator, you may admire **yacht contestants** or brave **rafters fighting** against the wild Devil Streams under the dam during **the Raft World Championship**. However, you personally can have a lot of adventures, beginning with swimming, rides on a **boat**, **windsurfing**, **yacht activities**, or **fishing**, to end with **cycling** and **in-line skating**.

You can experience a pleasant and active day on the banks of the "South Bohemian Sea". Of course, there are other seasons of the year, too. In winter, we prepare skiing slopes for you at several **ski resorts**; in addition, there is a perfectly maintained network of **cross-country skiing trails**. You can set out for a cross-country skiing trip on the frozen surface of the Lipno dam lake. In addition, the lake offers a several kilometres long **skating track**. Do not forget to pack your swimsuit for your winter trip to Lipno - **indoor swimming pools** and local **water parks** will be popular spots for you and especially for your kids.

### *Take the children with you!*

It is the common belief that children are a joy and trouble all in one. This should not deter you from visiting Český Krumlov even with your small kids. The variety of activities designed for small and older children will make your trip a pleasure both for them and you.

The most typical and probably the most popular and essential show is provided by the **bears in the castle moat** – the live "teddy bears" will attract absolutely anybody, including the smallest visitors, that's for sure. Entertainment and a show for the whole family is offered by the expositions in the **Wax Museum** and the **Museum of Torture Instruments**: Meeting the world's famous personalities and gaining an insight into medieval inquisition practices is just unforgettable.

Would you like to see your children's eyes radiant with happiness? Take them to a fairy tale! There will be no time to get bored in the **Marionette Museum** or in the **Fairy Tale House** with puppets and a puppet theatre exhibition. You can definitely take your children for a tour in the former **graphite mine** – boys in particular will enjoy the adventurous trip in the underground corridors. Another type of entertainment is offered on the sightseeing raft that will take you for a ride around the downtown area. You will get through the challenging yet very popular weir under the Plášťový Bridge safely.

Relaxation and a pleasant stay for you, and entertainment for your children - both are offered at the modern **children's playground** - gardens full of games and attractions including climbing frames for very young and older children, too. If you would like to have an active trip or holiday with children in Český Krumlov without leaving them with somebody else, you can find a lot of activities you can share with them. Among other things, you can set out for a **ride on horseback** or a **cycling trip**, **take part in archery**, **drive scooters** or set out for a **ride down the Vltava River**. Thanks to the several kilometres long, safe and quality trail along the Lipno dam lake, you can enjoy **in-line skating**; in addition, there are other activities on the lake - **boats**, **tourist catamarans**, **pedal boats**, **a ride on a steamboat**, etc. In winter, a **ski school** for the youngest children is offered in the Skiareál Lipno resort.

**Programs for children** are included even in activities or events organized primarily for adults. This should be applied in the case of, for example, the **Český Krumlov River Marathon**, **Five-Petalled Rose Celebrations**, **St. Wenceslas Celebrations** and many others.

In short, your children will love Český Krumlov. In particular during the **Advent** period, the town lives through the poetry of the upcoming Christmas, the feast that brings joy and pleasure especially to small children. The **traditions of Český Krumlov**, such as **Christmas tree lighting** at the square, **writing letters to the Baby Jesus**, **giving presents to the bears** in the castle moat, etc. are becoming more and more popular.

### *More than a tourist destination*

The gorgeous settings of the town are just perfect for unique events. Wedding photographs taken in the beautiful environment of the Krumlov Castle or castle gardens will always remind you of the special experience of **making your marriage vows**. You can order your wedding reception in private lounges of local hotels or restaurants – or you can choose spacious facilities such as the brewery gardens. The entire service and program for wedding guests will be arranged in a very professional way.

Are you thinking about a suitable place for your **conference or seminar**? Český Krumlov is the perfect choice for you. Conference rooms in exclusive historical rooms in the prelatore, the castle riding hall, or five and four star hotels offer a wide range of options. Conference equipment and professionalism are commonplace. A professional approach and individual customer service guarantee a flawless course of the conference or incentive event. As for relaxation, a great variety of complementary programs is offered - the cultural, sports, or social programs held in the ancient environment of Český Krumlov have always had a truly unique atmosphere.

Individual tourists have a wide range of choices as well. Advantageous **stay packages** that are full of new experiences are offered. Allow yourself to be inspired, follow our recommendations and make the best choice from the broad offer. The romantic environment, the culture, sightseeing and educational activities are waiting for you, and a variety of activities is prepared for sports lovers, too.

## ***TRACKING ANCIENT TIMES***

### *Castle and Chateau*

The landmark and architectural jewel of the city. If we consider its size, only Prague castle can compete with the castle. Two sightseeing tours of the chateau interiors from the 16th through 19th century offer a breathtaking view from the gallery of the chateau tower – including five castle courtyards, live bears in the castle trench and a unique attraction – the authentic Baroque castle theatre. Starting on January 2011, a new exposition of the castle museum will be opened in the second courtyard with a visitors' centre, operating throughout the year. The large castle premises complement the grand Baroque and partially Rococo garden with the Bellarie summer castle and a cascade fountain.

### *St. Vitus' Church*

The late-Gothic cathedral, the slender white tower of which shines above the red roofs of ancient houses, and together with the castle tower creates the characteristic city silhouette. Gothic figural frescos from the 15th century wait for their visitors' admiration inside the bold three-aisle structure, as do the magnificent dome, the early Baroque altar and the Renaissance tombstones.

### ***Museum Fotoatelier Seidel***

A surprised visitor of the newly reconstructed, original and only recently opened photo studio of Josef Seidel – a pioneer in professional photography in the first half of the 20th century – would probably have to ask the question: What year is it? The entire studio and its equipment is original and still fully operational. Antique photographic cameras, magnifying lenses and darkroom equipment. An illusion of idyllic times of the First Republic evokes a number of photographs and postcards, original glass negatives and also some personal belongings of Josef Seidel. All as if used only yesterday...

### ***Regional Museum***

More than 34 thousand real and preserved items and exhibits represent the long and rich history of the city and its region. The Original Jesuit Grammar School and the first Baroque building in the city will welcome its first visitors in June 2010 in its newly reconstructed premises. An event called the "Story of the City" will be held here to commemorate and celebrate the 700th anniversary of the first written record about Český Krumlov as a municipality.

### ***City Tour***

The most interesting monuments and parts of the city will be introduced to visitors by professional tour guides who will explain the history and provide interesting information about the city as well. An exciting experience is the night city tour when the beauty of the city is even more apparent. Presentations are done in the main world languages.

### ***Audioguide***

To experience and learn about the city with the help of a small electronic guide will be an attractive and different kind of experience for those who want to be independent and prefer learning on their own. The method and the tour programme is in your own hands. Electronic guides may be picked up at the Information Centre.

### ***Scenic Cruises***

Rafting without getting wet... that is the name of this interesting city raft tour down the river stream. The Vltava River joyfully winds through the historical city centre and rafters dressed in historical costumes complement the views from the romantic creeks with their presentations.

## ***PLEASE BE QUIET, THE MUSES ARE TALKING***

### ***Egon Schiele Art Centrum***

Master pieces by world famous artists are presented in this extensive exhibition in the Renaissance building – the former city brewery is today the centre of arts, named after the famous expressionist Egon Schiele (1890-1918) whose art works and aquarelles are presented in the form of a permanent exhibition. This famous gallery, with 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, achieved its great reputation thanks to its successful display of works by great artists, such as Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall, Andy Warhol, Oskar Kokoschka and others.

### ***International Art Gallery + Czech Culture Gallery***

Art lovers may see the works of almost all plastic arts including sculptures and design work in this quiet and pleasant environment in the second castle courtyard, (so-called Mássalnice) and also in the Gothic and Renaissance Wenceslas courtyards and basements, located in the fourth courtyard.

### ***House of Photography***

The fact that Český Krumlov is the "promised land" for admirers of photography is further supported by this gallery which displays works of modern, mostly Czech photographers. A must-see is the permanent exhibition of photographs and paintings created by Jan Saudek, posters by Alfons Mucha and pieces of graphic art created by Salvador Dali.

### ***AT THE MUSEUM & UNDERGROUND***

#### ***Puppet Museum – Fairy Tale House***

Children, as well as their parents, will most certainly enjoy the presentation of over two hundred valuable puppets, made even more interesting with thematically-arranged units, various historical legends, and a display of a model fun fair and mechanical theatre created in 1815.

#### ***Marionette Museum***

The melancholy of ancient puppets, coulisses in the former Baroque Church of St. Jošt, and current wood-carving jewels from the National Theatre of Marionettes all wait for the eyes of both children and adults to be filled with fairy-tale dreams.

#### ***Museum of Architecture and Crafts***

A very interesting exhibition showing the development and changes of houses in Český Krumlov as seen by the eyes of conservation experts. Small window details and fittings that would otherwise be missed by passing visitors are arranged here according to interesting historical connections. A magic hidden in the everyday things that surrounds us plus professional presentations and concerts of medieval music – can all be seen in a humble house on Dlouhá Street.

#### ***Museum of Torture Instruments***

When visiting this museum, you will feel the dark medieval times in your bones, revealing the inhuman methods used by ancient torturers, including examples of thumbscrews, bone-breaking wheels and other torture "equipment". The suggestive experience is further enhanced by wax figures of executioners and their victims.

#### ***Wax Museum – Museum of Wax Figures***

Here you can sneak into an ancient pub, take a quick peek into an old alchemist's workshop or admire the skills of medieval craftsmen, in the gripping exposition of wax figures, supplemented with famous members of the Rožmberk clan and other rulers. Here you may meet Peter Vok, Václav Havel, T. G. Masaryk, John Paul II, Michael Jackson and many other famous persons and celebrities.

#### ***Graphite Mine***

You can discover an unusual adventure and long-forgotten secrets if you take an educational trip into the old graphite mine. The tour will take you through a large labyrinth under the ground. Also parents and their children may take this trip, as helmets and mining clothes are provided. Here you will experience a ride in the original old mining train and then walk on paths where graphite used to be excavated.

### ***Tour of the Brewery***

This attractive tour will be enjoyed not only by beer lovers but by anyone who would like to take a quick peek at the beer brewing process used at the Eggenberg brewery – the tradition dates all the way back to 1560. The professional narration provided by our tour guide ends with the necessary tasting of non-pasteurised beer.

### ***The Observatory and Viewing Tower Klet'***

The stars are much closer if you look at them from the top of the highest hill of the Blanský les (Blanský woods). This show, offered by the highest observatory in the Czech Republic, also includes tours and public star gazing programmes. When you get to the top of the 1 083 metre-high Klet' you can climb up to the historical viewing and observation tower and if you are lucky, you may see the Alps. You can use the seated-lift to get to the top (Holubov station) or you can take a trip to the top from Český Krumlov – Vyšný station (approximately 1.5 hours).

## ***SPORTS IN ČESKÝ KRUMLOV***

### ***Golf***

Those who have devoted their lives to this beautiful game may swing their clubs at a modern 18-hole golf course, located only 5 km from the Svachova Lhotka village. When you finish playing, you can stay at the nearby hotel which, besides the traditional South-Bohemian cuisine, offers other services such as wellness programmes.

### ***Water Tourism***

Here you may admire the beauty of the river and the historical monuments at the same time. The best way to do that is to view them from a raft or a canoe. To enjoy pleasant sailing or rafting from Vyšší Brod to Český Krumlov or even further down the Vltava River via Golden Crown all the way to Boršov, you can rent a raft or a canoe in one of the many boat and raft rental places. They will be glad to provide you with the other necessary equipment that you will need during your sailing or rafting trip as well.

### ***Bike Tourism***

The slightly hilly countryside of the foreland before the Šumava Mountains with a vast network of paths and bike tracks is a true paradise for bicycle tourists. Very popular biking may be done in the former military area of Boletice, the south bank of Lake Lipno or in the adjacent Klet' Mountains. All the tracks and paths are surrounded with many cultural monuments and natural beauty. Due to high demand, many new bike rental places have been established in this region, to accommodate your biking needs.

### ***Tennis, Squash, Swimming, Bowling***

The vast number of leisure and sporting activities also includes other activities that can make your stay more interesting even if the weather is not very friendly. There are for example outdoor and indoor tennis courts located at the **Tennis Centre** or the three squash courts at the **Squash Centre**, a **gymnasium with a sauna and a 25 meter-long indoor swimming pool** and a smaller pool for children. All this just a few steps from the city centre. An excellent option for how to spend your evening is **to go to a bowling alley in one of the 8 bowling lanes** found in local clubs.

### ***Horseback Tours and Scooter Rides***

Even though Český Krumlov is a rather small city, it offers so much fun stuff and so many interesting activities that sooner or later everyone gets tired. However, the city and its surroundings may be experienced with very little effort. If you are a technical guru you can rent a **scooter, a four-wheel scooter** or you can try the popular **segway**. To get down quickly and with little effort from Klet' Mountain or ride around the neighbourhood, you can rent a **scooter**. However, the nicest view of the city of Český Krumlov is from horseback. To enjoy and experience a horseback trip, simply go to one of the local **riding clubs** – which offer many trips to the surrounding countryside.

### ***Shrovetide***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/shrovetide](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/shrovetide)

The old tradition of Shrove Tuesday folk festivals has been revived along with its typical Carnival featuring a procession of colourful masks, street plays, conjurers, and musicians, as well as an abundant feast and dancing because Shrovetide marks the end of the festive season and the beginning of Lent.

### ***Magical Krumlov***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/magicalkrumlov](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/magicalkrumlov)

The fairytale ambience of the medieval town combines with the magic of May Day Eve to set the stage for the celebration of the Month of Love. During the festive evening, you can enjoy a whirl of witches, the building of a maypole, live music, and a lantern procession, while on May Day you can visit exhibitions and expositions free of charge within the Museum and Gallery Open Day, which will offer a number of new and interesting displays and events.

### ***Český Krumlov Rallye***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/rallye](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/rallye)

The tradition of the car race, which belongs among the top motor events in the country, began in 1971. The race track leads both contestants and spectators to interesting places of the region that otherwise remain concealed from many visitors. The start of the race as well as the winners' ceremony taking place in the vicinity of the historical centre are always a welcome spectacle among youths keen on roaring engines, and other fans.

### ***Revolving Theatre***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/revolvingtheater](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/revolvingtheater)

Drama, opera and ballet – and above all, the exceptional experience of watching a theatre performance on a summer night in the open. Plays by William Shakespeare and other famous playwrights are set in the natural and breathtaking scenery of the Castle Gardens with the Bellarie summer residence in the background. The unforgettable moment is augmented by outstanding acting and unique directing concepts.

### ***Five-Petalled Rose Celebrations***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/fivepetalledrosecelebrations](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/fivepetalledrosecelebrations)

The famous Lords of Rožmberk (Rosenberg) who once owned the dominion are back! The spirit of the Renaissance age is brought back to life for three days with the hubbub of jousts, craft fairs, medieval music, street plays, and fencing duels to culminate with the highlight of the festival – a spectacular procession in historical costumes featuring knights on horseback and many notables linked with the history of the town. No matter what the age or the expectations of the visitors are, all will certainly enjoy themselves.

### ***Chamber Music Festival***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/chambermusicfestival](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/chambermusicfestival)

With summer comes a music festival with the oldest tradition in town. Due to being favoured by renowned domestic and international musicians, the once modest local event has gradually grown into a popular cultural event of immense world repute. One of the highly sought-after highlights of the festival programme is Music Through the Ages, which offers excursions of the castle interiors with live music played on contemporary musical instruments. A true pearl for the festival visitors is the genuine 18th-century feast titled Baroque Night at Český Krumlov Castle®.

### ***International Music Festival Český Krumlov***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/internationalmusicfestival](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/internationalmusicfestival)

You will have a hard time finding a longer-running musical event of this size on the Czech cultural scene. The festival has gained immense repute due to the liaison of the attractive ambience of the historical town with music concerts of different genres from the 15th century up to the present, featuring a number of famous domestic and international artists. The festival is not only the highlight of the Krumlov cultural summer but clearly a leading cultural event in the Czech Republic. This is more than proved by renowned artists whose names have become associated with the festival and many of whom have returned to the festival repeatedly, such as singer Eva Urbanová, violinists Gabriela Demeterová and Pavel Šporcl, the American sopranos Renée Fleming and Alison Bolshoi, conductor Maxim Shostakovich, Argentinean tenor José Cura, and many others.

### ***Zlatá Koruna Royal Music Festival***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/royalmusicfestival](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/royalmusicfestival)

The Royal Music Festival in Zlatá Koruna offers visitors a genuine musical experience combined with a pleasant trip. The musical experience is emphasized by the magnificent Gothic interiors of the Cistercian Monastery.

### ***Jazzky Krumlov Festival***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/jazzkykrumlov](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/jazzkykrumlov)

It's not only classical music that resounds through this picturesque medieval town. The local acoustics favour other music genres as well. This year-round series of concerts of jazz and alternative music culminates in early September with a traditional weekend festival, during which big-time domestic and international names of these music genres perform at highly untraditional places.

### ***Day without Barriers Český Krumlov***

[www.ckrumlov.cz/handicapday](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/handicapday)

A visit to the historical town centre: A pleasant walk for some and for others, a challenge full of impassable barriers. On this day, however, Český Krumlov is also open to all handicapped visitors. All stairs, whether at the castle or at its museums and galleries, seem to vanish from the town. Visually impaired visitors can “look” at house facades and the more adventurous will definitely enjoy a ride down the river on a flatboat or a raft. Moreover, a fair with products from protected workshops and an abundant cultural programme will certainly enrich this day full of unforgettable experiences.

### *European Heritage Days (EHD)*

[www.ckrumlov.cz/europeanheritagedays](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/europeanheritagedays)

European Heritage Days render a unique and one-of-a-kind opportunity to see usually inaccessible places of major historical monuments and to become familiar with the processes involved in their conservation and restoration. In accompanying expert lectures, visitors may learn many interesting facts relating to construction history and current findings.

### *Saint Wenceslas Celebrations*

[www.ckrumlov.cz/wenceslascelebrations](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/wenceslascelebrations)

In addition to being the patron saint of the lands of Bohemia, Saint Wenceslas is the patron saint of brewers and winemakers, which is commemorated by the traditional autumn festivities offering a cultural as well as a rich gourmet experience. The pleasant atmosphere of the autumn festivities is augmented by the festival of folk ensembles and the Saint Wenceslas Fair. The cherry on top is certainly the unforgettable evening excursion to the town's museums and galleries, garnished with an impressive accompanying programme.

### *Festival of Baroque Arts*

[www.ckrumlov.cz/festivalofbaroquearts](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/festivalofbaroquearts)

After centuries, the timeless works of Baroque artists – architects and music composers – meet once again to create a one-of-a-kind cultural event. The town's authentic historical premises resound with the tones of contemporary music: Sacral music echoes through the monastery church and the unique Baroque Castle Theatre becomes a stage for operas.

### *Ecofilm*

[www.ckrumlov.cz/ekofilm](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/ekofilm)

Since 1997, Český Krumlov has become one of the stops of this film festival, designated for all who care about the environment in which they live, and how they live. The liaison of the festival with the historical town on the Vltava is by no means accidental: Ecofilm currently focuses also on culture and the issue of monument conservation.

### *Český Krumlov River Marathon*

[www.ckrumlov.cz/rivermarathon](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/rivermarathon)

The wide variety of activities associated with Český Krumlov also features major sports competitions, one of which certainly is the river marathon, with the largest number of contestants in the Czech Republic. Every year, the river marathon attracts hundreds of keen watermen, ranging from strict amateurs to top-class international athletes. The river marathon weekend offers an abundant accompanying programme for the general public and does not forget our youngest visitors, too.

### *Advent and Christmas*

[www.ckrumlov.cz/advent](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/advent)

When winter comes, Český Krumlov shows a completely different face. A face filled with peace and poetry. The Advent season is a time of cheerful gatherings, starting with the **lighting of the Christmas tree**, carols, **treats given to children on St. Nicholas' Eve** and **letters written by children to Baby Jesus**. The festive time before Christmas culminates with a **living Nativity scene** that tells the biblical story through singing, dancing and plentiful music accompaniment. On Advent weekends visitors can enjoy the old **Bohemian Christmas fair** offering punch and traditional Christmas cookies, the delicious scent of which spreads throughout the town each day and evokes a festive feeling in everyone. Families with children can enjoy themselves on Christmas Eve at a gathering in the first castle courtyard and

celebrate **Christmas with the Krumlov bears**. Celebrations **welcoming the New Year** in Český Krumlov also offer one-of-a-kind magical and poetic moments.