

The tour of Brno – History and legends plus Christmas traditions

Project title: Let's teach each other

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On the 9th December 2019 a class of SSEE students engaged in a study trip focused on the history and legends of Brno and Czech Christmas traditions. The aim of the excursion was to get familiar with the history, culture, myths, traditions of the South Moravian Metropolis as well as the culture – history English vocabulary, which would then be helpful for the students in the preparation both for the school-leaving exam and the cultural dictionary developed within the current project entitled “Let's Teach Each Other”.

The three-hour excursion into the heart of the city of Brno during the Christmas-fair period lead the group to the most important sights of the city, which unveiled their history and legends: The Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul with its story of why the bells in Brno beat noon at eleven o'clock a.m.; The neighbouring Denis' gardens; The eclectic-style Mahen's theatre; The Old Town hall and its tales of the origin of the Brno's wheel, Brno's dragon and the crooked old city counsellors who didn't pay for the job of the Italian architect; The Church of St. Jacob with its sculpt of an angel aiming its naked butt at the Old Town hall; The nearby Liberty Square with its controversial modern art creations; and the last but not least the Castle of Spilberk with its dark casemates and tales of Baron Trenck, the pirate of the Maria Theresa's period, who got imprisoned and died in the Castle.

Besides visiting the historical and cultural sites of importance the group also stopped at the traditional Christmas fairs offering products of traditional Bohemian and Moravian Christmas cuisine and craft art. The whole excursion was both enjoyable and educational presenting the most important parts of Brno's history and culture with additional English learning aspect.





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