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## A trip to the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is situated in the middle of Europe. We can say that Czech Republic is the country in the heart of Europe. Our country is historically divided into free parts: Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia.

In the Czech Republic, there are more than 10 million people.

PRAGUE is the capital of the Czech Republic with more than 1 million people. There are 5 other big cities like Brno, Plzeň, Olomouc, Ostrava, and Liberec.

The Czech Republic shares borders with Germany, Poland, Austria, and Slovakia.

Inside Czech Republic, there are many interesting places where people can go and have fun. There are very beautiful mountains in our country: the Šumava mountain, Krkonoše, Luž mountains, Eagle mountains (Orlické hory) and Beskids. The highest Czech mountain is Sněžka (1603m).

The longest rivers are the Vltava, the Labe, the Morava.

The Czech Republic has moderate climate with four seasons-spring, summer, autumn and winter.

The Czech Republic is a parliamentary democracy. The parliament has two chambers:

The House of Deputies and the Senat. The head of the state is the president. The first president was Václav Havel, the second Václav Klaus, the third Miloš Zeman, and now Petr Pavel has been elected as president of the Czech Republic.

The Czech flag is made up of red and white stripes (white on the top and red on the bottom) and a blue triangle on the left side.

The official language is Czech. Regarding religion, most of Czechs are atheists or they are Catholics.

I am glad that I live in Czech Republic because it's a very rich country. We have beautiful mountains, we have nice lakes, forests,

beautiful historic towns like Prague, Kutná Hora, Tábor, Telč, Olomouc, Kroměříž...we can visit old castles Karlštejn, Křivoklát, Konopiště...we keep our customs and traditions.

We are very small country, but we have very long industry tradition, machine engineering, mining, chemistry and foodstuff production, the energy industry.

Mining industry is very important for Czech Republic, mainly in the region of Ostrava (black coal), steel production is also typical for Czech Republic (company Vítkovice steel), iron production in Třinecké železářny.

The Czech Republic is also a place with VERY RICH HISTORY: I will just mention some big events:

The first mention about Czech state in Middle Ages. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, we had a kingdom. The most famous king was Charles IV (14<sup>th</sup> century). He established a University in Prague in 1348. After 1620–Battle of the White Mountain, the Czech Lands became part of Austria and part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after 1867. After The First World War, Czechoslovakia was established. T.G.M. became the first president. After Hitler's occupation in 1938, Czechoslovakia was split into The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, and the Slovak state. The Second World War ended in 1945. Then the Communist Party won the elections in 1946 in Czechoslovakia. Many people had to leave our country. November 1989 or we can say Velvet revolution, changed our history. Velvet revolution ended communism and Soviet power. The Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004.