

## Karlštejn Castle tour (cca 4 hrs)

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**5.11. & 6.11. at 9:00** from Hotel Diplomat (side entrance next shop)

**Special price per person: 900,- CZK**  
(guide, bus, entrance fee included)

**Languages possible: Eng, Ger, Ita, Spa**

– min 4 people required per language, if less, will be English

**Karlštejn** impresses itself upon everybody with its stately manner and the same mood is communicated to visitors by its interior, kept as closely as possible to the original Medieval appearance. It's possible along both of the tour routes to see not only the architecture, which is uncommonly valuable from a historical viewpoint, but also the furnishings approximately corresponding to those seen by the Emperor Karel IV.



The castle, exceptional event among the Czech castles, not only for its historical significance but also due to its robust structure and architecture. Karlštejn was established by the Czech and Roman King Karel IV in 1348, who gave it the role of the treasury for the coronation insignia and the most valuable relics of the Holy Roman Empire. The basic construction of the Karlštejn castle took more than seven years, and the internal adjustments of the Chapel of the St. Cross were prolonged until 1365. The castle fortification guaranteed to resist any attacks in its time, proved itself in 1422 when Karlštejn was besieged by Prague citizens.



By decree of the Caesar Rudolf II the damaged castle was repaired at the close of the 16<sup>th</sup> century but in spite of this a gradual deterioration of Karlštejn began at that time.

In 1619 the coronation jewels together with the archives were taken away to Prague, in 1620 a garrison surrendered the castle to the army of Ferdinand II without a fight and in 1648 the castle was conquered by the Swedes.

The castle deterioration continued through the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but the Habsburgs rulers were aware of the historical significance of Karlštejn

as well.

The castle is dominated by a massive prismatic tower, called Great, whose floor plan consists of sides of 25 and 17 meters. The average wall thickness is 4 meters, reaching over 6 meters on the northern side. The main space of the tower is occupied by the Chapel of St. Cross which is strictly supervised and that its interior is visited yearly by only a few percent of the total number of the castle visitors