

## STEP – JIHLAVA – REPORT

First I wasn't sure, if it was a good idea to take part of the STEP Jihlava. First the timetable we received by mail seemed to be heavy and stressful. Also I had already been to Prague five years before and in my memory, Czech Republic wasn't so amazing. And, my boyfriend excepted, I didn't know the guys who also took place at STEP Jihlava, maybe I wouldn't like them.

After a few days spent in Jihlava I still was skeptically. In fact the timetable was stressful, we had to walk thru the whole city but we hadn't a lot of chance to discover Jihlava by our own. The food wasn't at my taste and I still didn't know the other students very well.

But then everything changed. We had some interesting Czech lessons and excursions in Jihlava and the Zoo which I really enjoyed. (I think that the cages for the animals were a bit small, but I am not an expert, maybe they had enough place.) Also I got used to walk such a lot and it was a good physical exercise. The nights were a lot of fun. I talked more to the others and we laughed a lot, the greatest sensation was Oliver, one of our colleagues, who danced the whole night with Czech girls and sweated such a lot, that even the money in his valet became wet!

At Sunday we went to Prague and my opinion about it changed completely. I don't know why in my memory it was more or less a boring city. The view over the bridges was amazing! Everywhere I looked, I saw a cathedral or a museum or another building that I wanted to visit. Of course only one day in Prague wasn't enough time at all and maybe I will visit Prague again with the other students from STEP. The other cities we went to weren't comparable to Prague, but they were nice to. In all cities we visited, it was a pity that we hadn't any time to discover them for our self. The guides who were very nice and dedicated wanted to show us everything, but this of course wasn't possible.

I also have to criticize a few things: the food in the restaurant was awful, we really had a lot to walk and we had to get up very early in the morning. As mentioned, I think that we hadn't enough free time, I only was able to know Jihlava because I used the free half an hour between lunch and Czech lesson, that's also the reason why I was late the most of the time.

All in all I had a great time in Czech Republic, I knew 15 new friends (my boyfriend was already my friend), and it was very international because there were also exchange students from Ukraine and Bulgaria, so that I improved my English. Maybe now I will have the chance to visit Ukraine or Bulgaria, so internationality will increase!

If there would be a similar exchange next year, I wouldn't hesitate to take part of it and I would recommend STEP Jihlava to every other open minded friend.

Best regards, Natalie Nowak