



## Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

**D**eep in the heart of southern Bohemia, just over two hours away from the capital Prague, is the UNESCO heritage town of Cesky Krumlov. With its tall spires, magnificent castle, open squares and the river Vltava snaking through it all, it is a traveller's delight.

The highlight of Cesky Krumlov is its 13th-century castle, around which the town sprang up – there is no charge to visit the castle grounds though payment is needed to access certain areas. The castle's main tower is 55m high and visitors who climb to the top will be treated to a breathtaking view of the town.

Summer is the peak season for the arts and culture scene in Cesky Krumlov, when it hosts several festivals for the arts, theatre and music. Perhaps the most important of these events is the Five-Petalled Rose Celebrations, which will be held from June 21-23 this year.

The festival was named after the crest of the noble house of Rozmberk (also called Rosenberg), which ruled over the region for almost 300 years from the early 13th century. The festival brings back the Renaissance age, complete with jousts, mediaeval music, theatre events and street processions. Don't miss Night of Music on June 21 – to celebrate the summer solstice – when musical events take place throughout the night in local pubs, cafes and the town's alleyways. ■

**BY CHARUKESI RAMADURAI**

The picturesque town of Cesky Krumlov, with its quaint buildings and winding alleys.