

Social habits and customs in Czech Republic.

To start a topic like that we should find the most interesting part and develop it from the start to the end, let's go up to the top of the pinnacle of most interesting behaviour factors of Czech people.

Greeting

Let's start with how we greet, with teachers in school we just say something like: good day, Mrs. /Mr. (teacher's name) when we meet them out of the classroom. If they start a lesson we greet them as a class by standing up for a few moments until the teacher greets us. In school we, of course, greet with our friends too, how friends greet depends pretty much on the actual people, it gets different for each person, but mostly it is just some kind of "Hello" that may be followed by a hug, sometimes. How we do greet family differs from family to family even more than the friends' greeting. It mostly depends on number of that family's people, age of the person that greets and relation between the two people, although it should be something classic like we greet parents with words and occasional hugs for some people, most people hugs grandmothers and so on... This should be mostly all for the greetings anyone can expect in our lands.



Habits in public

Let's move on and speak about habits and allowance of things on public. For example it is mostly OK when anyone chews bubble gum publicly. Also it is OK and even usual that people make calls in buses and so on, sometimes someone will get angry by this and they usually make a small verbal fight, but that almost never happens, people just got used to have mobile phones with them and using them when they need.

Smoking{habits in public}

Well people also smoke in public, It is pretty usual too, some people are about to try to make changes, in some restaurants smoking is completely banned and in subway and buses too, but many people smoke at bus stations and so on. Some people find it distasteful but there isn't much done about it. And we end here with the habits in public, let's move on (again).

Taboos

As for taboos, I am not aware of any, but maybe that's just us, I don't know about other places in Czech Republic.

Dancing lessons

There is one tradition special to our country, the dancing lessons. At the age of fifteen to sixteen, almost every kid goes to the dancing lessons with his contemporaries, where learns how to dance and is told how to behave in public. It isn't mandatory, but we all do it, and the reason behind that is it's fun. You get to meet new people, learn some fun dances, embarrass yourself while trying to perform the dances you learned (my favourite part), and much more. It's a good age for boys and girls to start talking to each other, too, and this helps. We usually have those lessons once a week for about three hours, and it goes like this for half a year. Then, if you want to continue, you can do that, but about half of the people who went to the basic lessons, as we call them, end here. By then you should already know the basics of about 15 dances, which is enough for most people. We learn classical and Latin-American dances in pairs, and after each lesson we can do some fun dances in groups.



Characters from Czech fairy tales

We have a few typical fairies and bogeymen. One of the most famous characters in Czech fairy tales is the legendary water sprite "vodník"/"hastrman". It is said that you can meet him anywhere close to water, at dam or pond for example. He usually is evil and he stores people's souls in jars underwater. He is depicted as a little man with green hair usually riding a catfish.

Another traditional character is a devil in many forms, I somehow expect you know devil in at least one form that appears in our tales, so I'm not going to talk about it more.

The next character should be less known, she is known as the White lady and she appears at night in

castles and chateaux, she usually walks on the walls of the building, she means a bad omen. And one for an end is/are the Will-o'-the wisp, they appear as various lights making dance like moves and moving fast through the forest. If you treat them and the forest nicely, they should not harm you and eventually lead you out, if you mean harm to them or the forest they are capable of leading you to a swamp where you drown. It is said that they are spirits of witches or children or witch children.



Goodbye

That is about all I have to say about social habits and customs of Czech Republic, I hope you found this interesting and maybe learned something new.